FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CONFRONTATION FRONT LEADERS PLAN MID-MARCH MEETING

JN060924 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Mar 80 p 20 JN

[Khalil at-Taqi dispatch]

[Text] It is now expected that the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states will hold their forthcoming meeting in Damascus before mid-March. The meeting will be attended by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, PDRY leader 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The expected meeting will take place now that its agenda has been agreed upon and studies and directives prepared for discussion by the conferring leaders, so that they can approve a unified plan to confront the challenges being faced now that Israel and Egypt have exchanged ambassadors and attempts are being made to impose the autonomy plot on the Arab Palestinian people and to determine their fate without consulting them.

AD-DUSTUR has learned that diplomatic Arab and international activities will be carried out by the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front leaders at the end of their conference in Damascus, in order to concert efforts and muster all the necessary pot..tials to abort the plots and threats to which the Arab nation has been subjected since the Camp David accords.

AD-DUSTUR has also learned that it is expected that during the Damascus conference, a reconciliation will be effected between Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Yasir 'Arafat.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT CHAIRS HIGHER MILITARY COUNCIL 6 MAR

NC061601 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World
1515 GMT 6 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and general commander of the Palestinian revolution forces, this afternoon chaired an emergency meeting of the Higher Military Council of the Palestinian revolution.

Our correspondent has learned that the meeting dealt with current developments in the area, particularly in southern Lebanon, in light of the escalation of Zionist aggression against Lebanese towns and villages and Palestinian camps. The council adopted a number of important decisions to confront the situation.

FATAH, LEBANESE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS HOLD DISCUSSIONS

NC061600 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World
1515 GMT 6 Mar 80 NC

[Text] A meeting was held between a Palestinian revolution delegation, including brothers Abu Jihad and Abu al-Hawl, members of the Fatah Central Committee, and Abu al-Walid, director of the joint operations room, and the delegation of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement consisting of brother Walid Junblatt, George Hawi, Muhsin Ibrahim, Tawfiq Sultan, Muhsin Dallul and Anwar al-Fata'iri. The 3-hour meeting focused on the current developments in Lebanon.

SAUDI PRINCE FAYSAL ON TUNISIAN-LIBYAN DISPUTE FINDINGS

LD051639 Tunis L'ACTION in French 1 Mar 80 p 8 LD

[Unattributed report: "We Are Fully Convinced There Has Been No Foreign Intervention in Tunisia"]

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal granted an interview to Tunisian television on Thursday in which he answered questions relating to the alleged foreign intervention in Tunisia and to respect for the Arab League Charter.

On the subject of the alleged foreign intervention in Tunisia, the Saudi minister indicated that the convening of the Arab countries to this extraordinary session in Tunisia--land of inter-Arab meetings--reflects the special interest which the Arab countries have in the present state of Tunisian-Libyan relations.

"I want to talk not only about the conclusions reached during this session, but also about the spirit in which the session took place.

"This affair is particularly important in that we are being asked to settle a dispute between one Arab country and another Arab country which houses the Arab League headquarters and it is for this reason that we tried to place the general interest above any other consideration and seek the truth in order to be able to take positive action."

The minister added, "we studied the two complaints submitted to us in great detail and listened with interest to the account given by Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri.

"I can confirm that all the delegations are fully convinced that there has been no foreign intervention in Tunisia. They explained this conviction so clearly as to leave no doubt."

The Saudi minister pointed out that the formation of the tripartite committee and the decision to keep the session open until the existing problems are solved reflect the league council's desire to pursue a course which will lead to the desired results.

He pointed out that marginal conflicts are likely to create an explosive situation in our region which, by its very importance in international politics, is not safe from covetous designs.

BAHRAIN

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES

JN051912 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Manama, 5 March--Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ath-Thunayyan, under secretary of the Saudi Foreign Ministry, arrived in Manama from Doha this evening on a short visit to Bahrain. During his visit, the Saudi official will convey a written message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia to amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Kahlifah.

Shaykh ath-Thunayyan made two similar visits to Kuwait and Qatar today during which he conveyed two messages from the Saudi monarch to the leaders of these two countries.

Message to Amir

JN051914 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Manama, 5 March--Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The message deals with bilateral relations, current Arab developments and issues of common interest. The message was conveyed by Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ath-Thunayyan, under secretary of the Saudi Foreign Ministry, when he was received by his highness the amir of Bahrain here this evening. The Saudi official had arrived earlier today. The meeting was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

Departure for Abu Dhabi

JN061231 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1205 GMT 6 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Manama, 6 March--Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ath-Thunayyan, under secretary of the Saudi Foreign Ministry, left here for Abu Dhabi today following a 1-day visit to Bahrain.

KUWAIT

MINISTER WELCOMES UK POSITION ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

LD051749 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Mar 80 LD

[Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting foreign minister, today welcomed Britain's support for the French Middle East policy, which is based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

In a statement to KUNA, he said the statements made by Mr Douglas Hurd, British minister of state for foreign affairs, supporting the French policy, are considered a good sign, especially as these statements come only a few days before a visit he will be paying to the region, including Kuwait. He added that Hurd's statements which oppose the dispatching of foreign forces or the setting-up of bases in the Gulf region conform with Kuwait and its declared policy toward this matter.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn added that on more than one occasion Kuwait has made known its strong opposition and its clear and frank attitude rejecting the presence of any foreign military presence or the setting up of any foreign bases in the region.

ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES W. BANK MAYORS

LD061318 Kuwait KUNA in English 1028 GMT 6 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 6 (KUNA)--State Minister and acting Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn received here today a delegation representing mayors of the Israeli-occupied West Bank towns headed by Nablus Mayor Bassam ash-Shakah.

The minister told KUNA following the meeting that talks with the mayors tackled developments of the Palestinian problem especially after the joint Kuwait-French communique which contained for the first time France's recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The talks also covered reflections of this communique on stands of other European countries on Middle East crisis.

He added that the two sides stressed the necessity for consolidating the steadfastness of the Arabs inside the occupied territories, significance of unity among the Palestinians under the Israeli occupation, the means for strengthening attachment of the Palestinians to their lands and the development of services in those lands.

LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT

Diplomatic Relations Established

LD051506 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 5 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--It has been officially announced here today that Kuwait and Luxembourg have decided to establish diplomatic relations at embassy level with each other as from today. A government statement said that in accordance with the desire of the Governments of Luxembourg and Kuwait to consolidate the ties of friendship and cooperation between their two countries, agreement has been reached to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Press Statement

LD051810 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The following press statement has been issued at the end of the visit to Kuwait by Luxembourg's minister of foreign affairs: Luxembourg Foreign Minister Mr Gaston Thorn paid an official visit to Kuwait 3-5 March 1980 at the invitation of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The guest and accompanying delegation were accorded a warm welcome which reflected the good relations existing between the two countries and their two friendly peoples.

During the visit the guest minister had an audience with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister.

Friendly and frank talks took place between the guest and 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting foreign minister; 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Atiqi, the foreign minister; 'Abd al-Wahab al-Nafisi, minister of trade and industry.

The talks deals with bilateral relations and means of promoting these relations in various fields. It was agreed that relations between the two countries should be promoted in the economic commercial and financial fields through exchanging delegations. The establishment of diplomatic relations at embassy level between Kuwait and Luxembourg was declared during the visit. They also discussed various international issues of concern to both countries. They agreed on the need to set up relations among states on the basis of mutual respect and constructive cooperation, and to resolve differences between states by peaceful means.

Regarding the Arab-European dialog--and from both sides' conviction in the importance of this dialog as one of the positive signs in the course of Arab-European relations--the two sides stressed their intention to create opportunities for the success of such a dialog in order to realize the sought-after aims.

In their analysis of the critical and grave situation in the Middle East, the two sides expressed conviction that Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territory occupied in 1967 and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination are basic elements for bringing about just and durable peace in the region. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the visit, and stressed the importance of meetings between officials of the two countries for the promotion and development of cooperation relations between the two friendly countries.

The guest minister expressed his thanks and appreciation for the extreme welcome accorded him and his accompanying delegation in Kuwait. He also invited the deputy prime minister and foreign minister to visit Luxembourg. The minister accepted the invitation with thanks.

PRESS CRITICIZES CARTER RETRACTION OF UN VOTE

LD051126 Kuwait KUNA in English 1011 GMT 5 Mar 80 LD

[Press review on Carter reaction to UN resolution]

[Text] Kuwait, March 5 (KUNA)--Extracts from Kuwaiti editorials Wednesday:

AL-QABAS on Carter's policy: President Carter's retraction of his support for a Security Council resolution condemning Israel's settlements policy and the call for the dismantling [of] the settlement in the occupied land can be considered by political circles as "an international scandal. This action grows more repellent because it emanates from a great country that has influence on the flow of world events.

The latest American behavior is a new ring in the American chain of continuous contradictions which have characterized the White House policy lately. The American administration is no more capable of endorsing any decisive resolution regarding international issue.

Moreover, Carter's administration in most of its international stances seems weak and succumbs to various pressures, above all to the Zionist pressure particularly with the approach of the American presidential election.

Carter's retraction, no doubt, violates the international American obligations and even makes all agreements and documents the U.S. concludes with other countries doubtful.

AL-ANBA on the same subject: It is not you (Carter) who must apologize for the U.S. delegates' voting for the Arab right in the call to dismantle Israeli settlements, but we Arabs have to apologize in shame from ourselves for believing one moment that the White House is liberated from serfdom to Israel.

We apologize because we were under the impression that the President of the U.S. controls the reins of his country. In reality, he is no more than a puppet in the hands of Israel which stuffs his mouth with chosen words at one time and suffocates him at another.

We apologize, and strongly, because we thought that the President of the greatest power in the world is aware of the importance of his country and respects its honour and pride and not a mere coward.

How can Washington consider itself a mediator in the autonomy talks after it had apologized for its previous call for liberating Jerusalem and dismantling Israeli settlements.

Arab antagonism against Israel is part and parcel of Arab antagonism against the U.S. Washington and Tel Aviv are two faces for one demon and we must be aware not to mix between devil and man and pay the price of going to hell.

PDRY

PREMIER SAYS RECONCILIATION WITH OMAN POSSIBLE

LD061340 Kuwait KUNA in English 1013 GMT 6 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 6 (KUNA)--The South Yemen premier said Thursday reconciliation with neighbouring Oman can be achieved if a number of conditions were met. Premier 'Ali Nasir Muhammad told AS-SIYASAH newspaper Oman should adopt an Arab nationalist policy as a basic condition for that reconciliation. It should abide by the resolutions of the two Arab summit meetings of Baghdad and Tunis, reject the Camp David accords and condemn the regime of Anwar as-Sadat in Egypt.

As another condition for reconciliation, the South Yemen premier wants his northern neighbour to come to terms with the National Front for the Liberation of Oman which opposes the regime of Sultan Qabus, the paper said. Nasir views the front as the main force struggling for the liquidation of what he described as foreign military presence in the sultanate, the paper added.

Premier Nasir condemned "American threats" to the Gulf region and pledged South Yemen will stand with the Arab states in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

Nasir described as "nonsense" doubts about his country's signing a cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union, AS-SIYASAH said. Such fears were artificial and unjustified, he said. The Government of South Yemen had concluded a friendship agreement with Moscow last year. Nasir said the Yemen people are proud of their relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries who will assist our social progress, he said.

Nasir affirmed his country's rejection of "imperialist military bases and pacts." The Arab Sea, the Gulf, the Red Sea, the African Horn and the Indian Ocean are safe spots, and we will fight to keep their safety, the paper quoted the premier as saying.

QATAR

SAUDI OFFICIAL CONVEYS MESSAGE, LEAVES FOR MANAMA

JN051640 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1555 GMT 5 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 5 March--Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a written message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The message deals with bilateral relations and issues of common interest on the Gulf, Arab and international levels. The message was conveyed by 'Abd al-'Aziz ath-Thunayyan, under secretary of the Saudi Foreign Ministry, when he was received by his highness the amir of Qatar this evening.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs. After the meeting, the under secretary of the Saudi Foreign Ministry left Doha for Manama on a similar visit.

PAPERS CRITICIZE U.S. CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON UN RESOLUTION

JN051230 Doha QNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 5 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 5 March--A comparison was made by two Qatari papers between the French stand of understanding and support for the Arab issue and the U.S. stand, which reflects the extent of Zionist infiltration in and Israeli influence upon U.S. policy, which is not in the interest of the Arab right.

In today's editorial, the newspaper AL-'ARAB praises the French stand on the Arab issue, adding that such a stand originally derives from France's awareness of the dimensions and background of the Arab-Israeli conflict and France's conviction that the Arab right has been usurped at a time when Israel is continuing its aggression against the Arab nation and attempting to undermine the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland.

The paper points out that France's recent stand on recognition of the Palestinian people's right to determine their fate and establish their state will bolster France's relations with the Arab states and increase cooperation between the two sides in their common interests.

The newspaper AR-RAYAH criticizes the U.S. President's statements yesterday, in which he announced that the United States made a mistake in supporting the UN Security Council resolution calling on Israel to dismantle its settlements in the occupied territory. The paper adds that such a stand is considered very strange and has no precedence in international policy.

The paper affirms that President Carter's stand reveals that Zionist infiltration has influenced U.S. policy in such a way that the United States publicly retracted an opinion and an official stand, which it had adopted in the largest international organization.

AR-RAYAH adds that President Carter's statement shows that the United States is adamant about continuing its course on the blind alley that it has followed from the beginning in trying to solve the Middle East problem. The paper adds that such a course is one of bilateral agreements, which cannot achieve just peace in the region.

The paper goes on to note that it is a wonder in international policy that the United States, which is the world's biggest country, should follow the political opinion of a small and notorious state like Israel. It is also a wonder that the world should have to call on the United States to adopt a policy that is independent of Israeli policy.

SAUDI ARABIA

COMMENTATOR QUESTIONS U.S. RETRACTION ON UN VOTE

LD062223 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Mar 80 LD

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Mr Cyrus Vance said that he takes full responsibility for the vote cast by the U.S. delegation at the Security Council in favor of the resolution denouncing the Israeli expansion by establishing settlements in the Arab territories.

It appears that the uproar which surrounded the retraction by U.S. President Carter with regard to his representative's vote at the Security Council in favor of the resolution that condemns the building of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories was the result of differences in the attitudes of a number of senior officials in the U.S. administration. While one group of these senior officials urged the U.S. President to shirk responsibility for the vote and announce that the vote was a result of miscalculation or an unintentional mistake, another group, including Mr Cyrus Vance, the U.S. secretary of state, was of the opinion that the U.S. administration is bound by the view of its representative at the council.

Despite the fact that the interpretations given for the attitude of President Carter may appear contradictory, the U.S. insistence appears quite clear in view of the U.S. attitude to what is called the problem of the removal of the Jewish settlements as it declared that the problem should be discussed within the framework of the negotiations which are taking place on the so-called self-rule.

Quite frankly this gives one an idea that the pressures which the Zionist lobby brought to bear on the administration of President Carter have succeeded in making the U.S. administration view the matter with bias. Here lies the danger with regard to the future of the U.S. role, which is still intransigent.

The question which is now being asked is: was it consideration for election, which President Carter is striving to win in order to renew his term of office, which was behind his vacillating attitude and his shirking of responsibility for the attitude taken by his delegate at the Security Council?

If this was the case, such a move is a weapon with a double edge.

Definitely the U.S. administration has not overlooked the danger of using such a weapon; in other words, President Carter is anxious to win the Jewish vote at the same time as he imagines that he is capable of turning a blind eye to the dissatisfaction this may cause in the Arab world, which may be reflected in the future of mutual interests between the United States and the Arabs, in the hope that this can be handed when he secures renewal of this term of office.

At any rate, the matter appears extremely confusing because the U.S. administration is in an unenviable position as it is called upon to give a more realistic interpretation for this retraction.

'UKAZ SEES FRANCE PLAYING POSITIVE ROLE IN MIDEAST

LD060929 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 2 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Untitled editorial]

[Excerpts] The French president's visit to the area constitutes a direct contribution to consolidating Franco-Arab cooperation, defining stands regarding the number one Arab problem and reaching a genuine formula for the achievement of peace in this strategic part of the world.

Since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict the Arab concept of peace has been defined in two principal issues. The first is to safeguard the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and establish a Palestinian state in redress for the historical crime that Israel committed when it seized the Arab lands and dispersed the indigenous inhabitants. The second issue is the withdrawal of Israel from all the territories it seized through the 1967 aggression.

There is no doubt that France can play a positive role in the achievement of peace in view of its strong relations with the Arab countries, of its constructive role within the European Community and its direct influence on the U.S. administration.

France, which has always proved its independence in taking decisions, has shown understanding of the reality of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its causes as well as of all aspects of the Arab stand. There is no doubt that the French president's visit to the countries of the area will strengthen the French conviction of the Arab right and of the area's need to live in real peace so that it can confront hostile conspiracies, particularly following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The French president's initiative which has been announced and is being discussed during his current visit to the area confirms the independent French role and French understanding and support for Arab rights at all levels. This initiative also reflects the European will to resist the Israeli stand of rejecting peace in all forms and to uphold legitimate Arab rights.

UAE

FRENCH PRESIDENT CONCLUDES TALKS, VISIT; STATEMENT ISSUED

Agreements Noted

JN060840 Doha QNA in Arabic 0805 GMT 6 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 March--In the final session of talks today between UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, it was agreed to bolster existing bilateral cooperation in various fields, especially in the economic, trade and oil areas. Several agreements were signed on cooperation in oil, energy, the medical field, information, agriculture and culture.

The French president's spokesman said that the talks revealed that the leaders' viewpoints are in agreement on various issues, foremost of which are the Middle East question, security in the Gulf area and the Afghanistan crisis.

An official UAE source said that the talks dealt with France's role in supporting the Arab cause.

A joint communique on the results of these talks will be issued this afternoon following President Giscard d'Estaing's departure to Jordan after a 2-day visit to the UAE.

Leaves for Jordan

NC061310 Paris AFP in English 1306 GMT 6 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 6 (AFP)--French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing left here today for Jordan after a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

He was seen off at the airport by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Ali Nuhayyan and other high officials.

French Oil Needs Guaranteed

JN061648 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 March--The UAE has announced that it will provide France with all its oil needs in appreciation of France's positive role within the European Community in support of Arab rights, as recently demonstrated by the French announcement in support of the Palestinian peoples right to self-determination.

This announcement came in a statement by Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zavid Al Nuhayyan, the heir aparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces, in which he expressed the hope that France will play a bigger and more effective role in reaching a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis.

Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah met with French President Giscard d'Estaing just before he left Abu Dhabi this afternoon. The discussion during this meeting dealt with the relations between the two countries, area issues, oil affairs and the Palestinian question.

Joint Statement

JN061906 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 March--The UAE and France have affirmed that dialog and consultation are the mainstay of peace for the sake of developing a more just and unified world and respecting the integrity and sovereignty of nations. The two states also expressed their great anxiety over the threats to security in several parts of the world and condemned all foreign intervention that leads to the disruption of world peace. This came in the joint statement issued tonight in Abu Dhabi and Paris following the French president's visit to the UAE. The following is text of the statement:

In response to a kind invitation from the president of the UAE, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, his excellency the president of France, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, paid a visit to the UAE on 5 and 6 March 1980.

His excellency the president of France wanted to express anew the profound sentiments of friendship which he personally and the French Government and people harbor for His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and the UAE people and government.

The two leaders discussed international and regional issues of mutual concern and relations between the UAE and France. Their talks have reaffirmed the friendship and mutual confidence between the two sides.

The talks, which were headed on the French side by his excellency the President of France and on the UAE side by his highness the president, were attended by the ministers and senior officials accompanying his excellency the French president and their counterparts on the UAE side.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid and President Giscard d'Estaing expressed their adherence to the principles of the UN Charter and human rights. Their viewpoints were completely identical with regard to the principles governing international relations.

The two leaders expressed their complete conviction that dialog and oonsultation are the mainstays of peace for developing a more just and unified world and respecting the integrity and sovereignty of nations. They also expressed their great anxiety over the threats to security in several parts of the world and condemned all foreign intervention that could lead to the disruption of world peace.

The two leaders discussed the situation in Afghanistan and stressed that the Soviet intervention is unacceptable and contrary to international law and to the Muslim Afghan peoples right to determine its own destiny. Therefore, they stressed the need for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces.

The two leaders expressed their declared positions on the Middle East crisis and their great concern about the situation in the Middle East, where tension is still threatening not only the region's stability and security but also world security and peace.

The two leaders reasserted the need to find a just and lasting comprehensive solution to this crisis based on Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967 and the guaranteeing of the Palestinian peoples legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination within the framework of a comprehensive peace settlement.

The two leaders noted that the Palestine question, which is the crux of the Middle East dispute, is not one of refugees, but of a people who have the right to set up their homeland and to determine their own destiny.

The two leaders expressed their great concern over the situation in Lebanon and affirmed their support for Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The two sides noted that Arab-European dialog provides great potentials for the common interest of the EEC and the Arab countries and affirmed the need to back this dialog as soon as possible. They also expressed their desire to start a dialog between the Arab Gulf states and the countries of the European Community.

His excellency the president of France submitted a proposal for a tripartite dialog among the Arab, European and African countries. His highness the president of the UAE expressed his support for this proposal and hoped that the efforts being exerted for this purpose will achieve practical results.

His highness showed great interest in the establishment of the Arab world institute whose foundation contract was signed on 28 February. He also expressed the desire that the institute will soon undertake the task of introducing the Arab world and achieving a wider exchange of knowledge in the field of languages and culture between the Arab world and France and later between the Arab world and the whole of Europe.

The two leaders expressed their satisfaction with the high level of cooperation attained between the UAE and France. The two sides also expressed their pleasure at the existing distinguished relations between the two countries, especially in the oil and gas industry fields. They expressed the desire for this cooperation to also cover the petro-chemical, desalination and communication fields.

The two sides discussed the development of industrial cooperation in the field of fertilizer production in the Ar-Ruways area with French financial backing. For this purpose, the two sides signed the following agreements: a cooperation agreement for training experts in the oil and petro-chemical production fields; a cooperation agreement in the field of supervising petroleum installations; a cooperation agreement in the nuclear energy field; a cooperation agreement in the alternative energies field; an agreement on agricultural relations; and an agreement in the medical cooperation field. The two sides agreed to hold a meeting of the joint economic cooperation committee soon to follow up on these agreements.

The two leaders expressed their pleasure at the development of cultural and arts relations between the two countries under the cultural and arts agreement concluded between the two countries in July 1975.

The two sides agreed to continue the efforts being exerted to teach Arabic in France and French in the UAE. They agreed to deepen and expand cooperation between them, especially in the field of video and audio aides and increase the exchange of programs and experts as well as the training of cadres.

On the occasion of this visit, the two leaders expressed their pleasure at the exchange of viewpoints which produced good results. They agreed on the need to continue the meetings between officials from both countries for consultations on the best ways to bolster the relations and cooperation between them.

His excellency the French president expressed his profound thanks and gratitude to his highness the UAE president, people and government for the great hospitality accorded him during his visit to the UAE. The French president extended an invitation to his highness the UAE president to visit France. His highness accepted the invitation. A date for the visit will be fixed later.

AL-FAJR SAYS U.S. USES UN TO FURTHER POLITICAL AIMS

JN050900 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0645 GMT 5 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 March--The Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-FAJR comments editorially on President Carter's statements, which place responsibility for the vote on the UN resolution that condemns the Israeli settlements on the shoulders of the U.S. representative to the United Nations. The paper also says that the United States has decided to use the UN rostrum to promote its political objectives, adding that the decision should be that of the Arabs and not that of the White House.

Following is the text of the editorial: On the eve of the issuance of the UN Security Council resolution condemning the policy of settlements and expansion carried out by the Zionist enemy and calling for the removal of the Israeli settlements from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Arab Jerusalem, we said that this resolution is devoid of any meaning and content and is similar to so many other resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and the international organization. We also said that the U.S. approval of the resolution is just a conspiracy, accurately engineered by the United States and Israel, to alter the U.S. image and to make it appear as a moderate party, even if only for a short time.

Yesterday's events demonstrated that the United States has decided to use the UN rostrum for its base political objectives. While the Zionist enemy Cabinet describes the UN Security Council as disgusting and states that the U.S. support for this resolution has created deep Zionist resentment, U.S. President Jimmy Carter hastens to place the responsibility for what took place on the shoulders of the U.S. representative to the United Nations, explaining that the United States can agree to the resolution only after certain paragraphs, particularly those on East Jerusalem, have been deleted, adding that what took place was the result of a sudden interruption in telephone contacts between the White House and the U.S. representative to the United Nations.

The paper concludes: This is clear proof that the final world on the Middle East dispute should be that of the Arabs, because they possess legitimate rights, and not that of Jimmy Carter, now that it is obvious that U.S. political policy is formulated in Tel Aviv and not in the White House, as it should be.

YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR 6 MAR

JN061048 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 6 Mar 80 JN

[Text] San'a', 6 March--Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs and foreign minister, met with the Soviet ambassador in San'a' for the second time in 1 week.

A Foreign Ministry source stated that the meeting centered on bilateral relations.

FOREIGN MINISTER: 'GREAT PROGRESS' MADE BY UNITY COMMITTEES

JN291745 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs and foreign minister, told the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AM that the unity committees have made great progress. He added that the two parts of the homeland have shown mutual understanding of the steps necessary to achieve the Yemeni people's aspirations for unity.

Foreign Minister Hasan Makki also highlighted the fraternal relations between the YAR and the Arab countries, especially the Gulf states and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He stressed that the YAR will not spare any effort to further develop these relations in all spheres.

Dr Makki reaffirmed that the YAR rejects the granting of any facilities or bases to any foreign country.

OFFICIAL WARNS OF 'COMMUNIST DESIGNS' ON AREA

LD051118 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the YAR Consultative Council, has warned against communist infiltration around the Arabian Peninsula. He has stated that communist designs, and those of the Soviet Union in particular, are wide-ranging after its occupation of sister Muslim Afghanistan. He has described this invasion as a "grave precedent" and has expressed his denunciation and condemnation of this blatant and unjust aggression and called on Muslims to be vigilant and alert.

Shaykh al-Ahmar, in an interview with AL-MADINAH published today, explains that every individual in Yemen senses the gravity of communist infiltration and is aware of the extent of the evil and danger which will ensue from this crafty infiltration aimed at the Islamic faith.

Regarding the unity between the two parts of Yemen, Shaykh al-Ahmar said that Yemen, north and south, is one people and that the south is an indivisible part of the north. He expressed his hope that unity between the two parts of Yemen will take place in the shadow of a constitution stemming from Islamic teaching and derived from the spirit of Islam.

Shaykh al-Ahmar spoke about Saudi-Yemeni relations, describing them as fraternal among the sons of one people linked together by the one faith and strengthened by the bonds of Arab brotherhood in addition to the ties of kith and kin. He condemned the campaigns of creating doubts about the relations between the two sister countries.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT LEADER: AGREEMENT REACHED WITH SALIH

LD041204 Kuwait KUNA in English 1031 GMT 4 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 4 (KUNA)--The leader of a radical North Yemeni organisation said that his front has reached an agreement with the President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih which could secure stability for the country and help in realising reunification of the parts of Yemen.

The leader of the National Democratic Front, Sultan Ahmad Omar said, in an interview published by AS-SIYASAH daily here Tuesday, that the agreement was reached following a dialogue started between his front and the San'a' government last summer.

The agreement stresses that the two sides work for the [word indistinct] of the sovereignty, unity and independence of North Yemen and following an independent internal and external policy based on solidarity, mutual respect, peaceful co-existence and non-alignment.

He added that the agreement also stipulates that democracy could be realised in North Yemen through election of a parliament in which the people are fully represented and through working out a permanent constitution for the country, permitting political freedom and trade.

Omar added that the agreement calls for adopting practical steps to guarantee security and stability in North Yemen and to put an end to armed conflicts among all forces and formation of a government comprising various political organisations in the country.

But the NDF leader warned that forces "hostile" to the Yemeni people would attempt to foil any national reconciliation based on principles of the agreement, but he did not specify these forces.

The NDF supported South Yemen in the armed clashes between North and South Yemeni forces which took place last February and it includes, according to its leader, parties, independent nationalist elements, tribal chiefs and businessmen.

BRIEFS

PDRY-BULGARIA AGREEMENT--A consular agreement was signed in the Foreign Ministry yesterday between the PDRY and the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The agreement comes as a strengthening of the firm relations between the two friendly countries. Brother (Muhammad ibn Fahl), director of the treaties and legal departments, signed the agreement on behalf of Yemen and Comrade Atanas Samsarev, the Bulgarian ambassador in Aden, on behalf of Bulgaria. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Feb 80 LD/EA]

DECREES ISSUED IN PDRY--Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee secretary general and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, today issued a Presidium decree providing for the appointment of brother 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Khamiri as minister of state for cabinet affairs. He also issued a Presidium decree ratifying the loan agreement to finance the Ar-Rayyan airport construction project concluded between the PDRY Government and the Kuwaiti Development Fund. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Mar 80 LD/EA]

GHALI: ARAB SOVEREIGNTY MUST BE RESTORED IN JERUSALEM

NC062014 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali has stated that Egypt is working for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and seeks to put the Palestinian people on the right course towards self-determination. He added that Egypt considers that Arab Jerusalem is under occupation and Arab sovereignty must be restored there.

Egypt, he said, will continue with the autonomy negotiations to achieve the desired objective of full autonomy for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza.

Conditions for Continuing Talks

NC062130 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali has stated that Egypt is working for comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He said that if positive results are achieved before 26 May, Egypt may continue the negotiations, but if no positive results are achieved by 26 May there will be many alternatives open to Egypt. These alternatives, are based on the principles agreed on at Camp David and would be sought by peaceful means. Dr Butrus Ghali was speaking at a press conference for foreign reporters in Cairo today.

KHALI EXPRESSES ANXIETY OVER SYRIAN INSTABILITY, SOVIET INFLUENCE

NC061950 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 6 Mar 80 NC

[Text] New York, 6 March--Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Kahlil has disclosed the contents of a letter which President Anwar as-Sadat had sent to U.S. President Carter. In the letter President as-Sadat predicts the likelihood of a Soviet aggression in the Middle Eastern area similar to the invasion of Afghanistan. This was contained in a dispatch which Flora Lewis sent from Paris to the New York TIMES which the latter published today.

Flora Lewis reports that President as-Sadat's letter was a reply to an earlier letter which he received from Carter last September. In his letter Carter had described the U.S. stand toward the presence of a Soviet combat brigade in Cuba.

Dr Mustafa Khalil has said that Egypt feels more anxious now than ever before about the instability in Syria and the Soviet pressure there. He said that Egypt is worried that Syria might accept Soviet influence or that there might be a coup d'etat in favor of a completely pro-Soviet government.

Dr Mustafa Khalil warned against the dangers of the United States becoming engrossed in Afghanistan and the Gulf to the extent of neglecting a possible Soviet move in Syria and South Yemen.

The prime minister pointed out that Syria, South Yemen, Ethiopia and Libya constitute positions of a Soviet outflanking movement which could in the future threaten Sudan, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said that the situation in the entire area (?from the aspect) of stability is becoming worse and that is why (?he believes) that a solution for the Palestinian issue should not be postponed.

The prime minister affirmed the need to convince Israel that its defense does not include Gaza and the West Bank and that this matter is directly related to the question of sovereignty. In this context he said that Egypt believes that a security committee should be formed whose task would be confined to military security. He added: [Words indistinct] if this question is not solved expeditiously, then it will require another summit conference.

At the end of his interview with Flora Lewis, Dr Mustafa Khalil expressed particular anxiety over North and South Yemen saying that the United States and Saudi Arabia had encouraged negotiations on unity between the two countries while Egypt considered that a misleading policy to a large extent because such a unity might lead to the domination of the pro-Soviet side.

APPREHENSION NOTED OVER SMUGGLED ISRAELI GOODS

LD030809 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Feb 80 p 8 LD

[Sa'id Sunbul article: "Israeli Goods in Egypt"]

[Excerpts] Egyptian markets are selling goods manufactured in Israel or in the occupied territories. They are in small quantities and consist of chocolates, tea and beer. Such a small quantity of goods does not endanger local products or threaten the national economy, but at the same time it does raise a big question mark: How did these goods reach Cairo markets?

The normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel has not yet begun, and the boycott of Israel was ended only a few days ago. This does not mean that Israeli goods and products should be allowed in before trade exchange is established between the two countries. Such trade between Egypt and Israel has not yet begun.

So how did these goods enter Egypt and who is promoting them? More important still, how did the authorities allow them to be marketed.

Before answering this question I must dwell on the fears being expressed by many people over the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel, particularly economic and trade relations. Some people are exploiting these fears and trying to exaggerate and inflame them. These people recall the situation that prevailed until 1956, when foreigners and Jews were in control of the Egyptian economy. These people say, whether with good or bad intentions, that the Israelis will dominate the Egyptian economy just as the Jews did previously.

I would say that the historical, political and social conditions under which we are normalizing relations with Israel are quite different from those that enabled the Jews in the past to dominate the Egyptian economy and to control its basic resources.

Under the present conditions Israel will obtain no special privileges; rather it will be dealth with like any other foreign country. Under such conditions the Egyptian banks and companies will have the right to deal or not to deal with Israel. The government also has the right to reject all Israeli projects which do not serve Egypt and the Egyptian people. It also has the right to refuse Israeli investments if they are not beneficial to Egypt or if such investments try to influence the Egyptian economy.

I say that this is not only the right of the government but also its duty. Nationalist Egypt has been able to get rid of foreign domination of Egyptian economy, and we will not allow the return of such domination in any form.

Normalization of relations with Israel must not worry us. The establishment of trade and economic cooperation with Israel must not scare us. The Israelis will obtain from Egypt only as much as Egypt wants to give them.

Going back to the question I raised at the beginning, I would ask: How did the Israeli goods enter Egypt, and how did they find their way to the stores? Has the Ministry of Trade issued permits for importing such goods? I do not thin so. Has the Customs Department released consignments of goods that came from Israel? I do not think so. How, therefore, did they come? They definitely came through smuggling.

The question is: What are we doing about these crimes? Smuggling is a long-standing phenomenon in Egypt which appeared toward the end of the fifties and became more acute in the sixties when Egypt closed its doors and banned imports from abroad.

The appearance of smuggled Israeli goods in Egyptian markets is a serious phenomenon that cannot be ignored and over which we cannot remain silent, not because they are Israeli goods but because of the imminent legal trade between us and Israeli. If we find that such goods are surreptitiously infiltrating our markets even before the doors are opened legally, then how will the situation be when the doors are legally opened to them?

It is time for the government to adopt a firm and strong stand against smuggling in all forms, and particularly from Israel. This action is urgently needed now, not only to protect the national economy, but also to reassure the Egyptian citizen that Egypt's relations with Israel are on equal footing and will not result in any advantages to Israel.

We accept legal and honest trade with Israel but refuse to permit Egypt to become a market for smuggled Israeli goods.

ASH-SHA'B WARNS OF CONSEQUENCES OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

LD041519 Cairo ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Feb 80 pp 8,10 LD

[Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad article: "It Is the Duty of Every Citizen To Protect Egyptian Interests Against Israeli Designs"]

[Excerpts] Entering upon the stage of normalizing Egyptian-Israeli relations today in implementation of the treaty concluded between the two countries--through the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, the establishment of normal diplomatic, economic and cultural relations, ending the economic boycott and removing the barriers to freedom of movement of individuals and goods between the two countries--does not mean that the people are obliged to establish such relations now or in the future, or that citizens are compelled to treat with the Iraelis. Nor does it not mean giving Israel a privileged position or ignoring the protection of national interests against Israeli designs or attempts at domination and at gaining rights that are against our present and future interests.

Israeli designs to expand and to dominate are well known; they are recorded in the resolutions of the world Zionist conferences and the Protocols of Zion, are published in articles and research papers and are declared in the "Greater Israel" slogan "from the Euphrates to the Nile."

After concluding the peace treaty with Egypt, Israel did not alter its slogan which declares its aggressive intentions against Egypt and its sovereignty. This is an affront to our national feelings and gives no reason for believing that Israel has changed its policy in response to the desire shown by the Egyptian state to coexist with it and to replace hostility with peace. Indeed this slogan is engraved on the Israeli Knesset wall as if as a challenge to everyone who claims that Israel has changed its aims of expansion and domination after the peace treaty.

Israel might have changed its method and tactics in achieving its goal of expanding from the Nile to the Euphrates; it has probably given up military invasion and occupation by means of armed forces, which would force it to be in constant state of mobilization and which would therefore burden it with exhausting arms expenditures and it is now resorting to economic-cultural-political plans aimed at achieving the same goals.

On the popular level, the abolition of the official boycott of Israel and of the international firms that cooperate with it does not necessarily mean the abolition of the popular boycott, particularly since Israel still occupies one third of Sinai as well as other Arab territories and does not wish to solve the Palestinian problem in a manner that would achieve a comprehensive peace in the area. Instead, it is heightening the climate of hostility and anxiety by escalating Israeli settlement in the West Bank and placing obstacles on the path to the autonomy talks.

It is inconceivable that a people would change their feelings overnight and would switch to amity and friendship after years of hostility: during which the innocent blood of our youth was shed; hardly an Egyptian family that did not lose one or two of its sons; the canal towns were destroyed and their inhabitants dispersed and forced to live in misery; and our economy was destroyed with the result that our public utilities deteriorated and we suffered stifling economic crises.

The fear of uncontrolled normalization of relations is not considered a lack of self-confidence, for an excess of confidence might lead to many hazards that would harm the country's interests and its future. It is wrong to liken the relations between Egypt and Israel to those that existed between Egypt and Britain or the Soviet Union or the present relations between Egypt and the United States. Israel's objectives and ambitions to capture and dominate the area in which our country is located are quite different from the objectives and conditions of any of the countries in question. It is sufficient to point out to the proximity of territories, the common borders, the coveting of Sinai oil and the Nile waters, the desire to exploit our market and the neighboring Arab markets as well as the large manpower resources, skilled and otherwise, in these markets.

ROSE AL-YUSUF REPORTS OPPOSITION CALL TO BOYCOTT ISRAEL

LD051701 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 3 Mar 80 pp 4, 5 LD

[Unattributed report: "Call To Boycott Israel Advocated by Politicians and National Assembly Members"]

[Text] The three national dailies have ignored the press conference which People's Assembly member Mumtaz Nassar held last Monday at which he called for boycotting of Israel. Public opinion learned nothing about the conference, which was attended by foreign and Egyptian journalists, except when President as-Sadat said that two opposition conferences were held on the day the Israeli ambassador arrived in Cairo saying that this was a healthy sign of the democracy which Egypt is enjoying.

Mumtaz Nassar had called for a conference "to be held by representative of the nationalist forces opposed to the normalization of relations with Israel." The conference was attended by a number of politicians who signed the statement calling for the boycott. It was also attended by foreign and Egyptian journalists. The conference began in a tense atmosphere. Mumtaz Nassar refused the presence of Israeli journalists. The Egyptian journalists insisted on conducting a political debate, which compelled foreign journalists to wonder whether "we are in a parliament or at a press conference?"

At the beginning the assembly member summed up the statement and said that the signatories do not represent any particular party. He said that they call on the government to accept their view that what Israel wants in the name of peace is to normalize relations and acquire a privileged position, something that it should not obtain as long as one-third of Sinai is still occupied. They said that "normalization" would break Israel's isolation and would isolate Egypt from the Arab common market and from the Arab world in general by linking it to the Israeli market, which is of limited potential.

After this introduction by Mumtaz Nassar a heated debate ensued. A journalist asked about the legality of this action and wondered about commitment to the outcome of the referendum. Another journalist asked about the relevance of raising the question of the Nile waters despite the technical impracticality of the project [of giving Nile waters to Israel]. A third journalist raised the question of the autonomy talks and wondered whether they can be judged while they are still in progress and the date for implementing autonomy is not yet due.

Replying, Mumtaz Nassar said: We are within the law. We believe that the treaty is an agreement between two parties. If one of the parties defaults on the agreement the other party has the right to stop implementing it. Israel violated the agreement when it continued to build settlements. With regard to the question of the Nile waters, the idea is to respond to Israeli dreams which have been expressed in a study published in an Israeli magazine.

Kamal ad-Din Husayn, [a former vice president], one of the signatories of the statement, said that referendums do not represent the people's opinion. Dr 'Ismat ad-Dawlah, commenting, said that Husayn's opinion is personal and does not represent the views of the signatories of the statement. The debate lasted one hour.

AS-SADAT HOLDS DIALOG WITH NDP LEADERS

NC061940 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Mar 80 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met today with leaders of the National Democratic Party [NDP], a number of NDP members of the People's Assembly, and some ministers. The meeting, which was held at the party's club, was also attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, People's Assembly Speaker Sufi Abu Talib and Deputy Prime Minister and NDP Secretary General Fikri Makram 'Ubayd.

During the meeting a family dialog took place between President as-Sadat and party representatives on the dimensions of the situation at home and abroad.

OCTOBER MAGAZINE VIEWS SAUDI-NORTH YEMENI RELATIONS, USSR INFLUENCE

LD271657 Cairo OCTOBER in Arabic 17 Feb 80 p 32 LD

[Maryan Rubin article: "The Yemeni-Saudi Crisis"]

[Text] Yemeni-Saudi relations are now experiencing a real crisis despite the informational flirtation emerging from the two countries. The tension in the relations between the two countries reached its climax when Saudi Arabia decided to halt financial support for the Yemeni budget.

The Saudi decision was made after the recent visit to the Saudi Kingdom by Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, to persuade the Saudi officials to continue Saudi support for the Yemeni budget in order to enable Yemen to pay its employees' wages. Before considering the Yemeni request, the Saudi leaders, however, preferred to ask several questions about the reasons for Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih throwing himself into the lap of the Soviets, for his suspicious silence over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and for his expeditious instructions to all his ambassadors abroad not to make any statements attacking the Soviet attitude.

It appears that Saudi Arabia was not convinced by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani's logic, and told him that it would continue to provide him with financial support provided North Yemen broke off its military relations with the Soviet Union, promptly dispensed with all the Soviet experts at present in San'a' and publicly denounced the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan.

When the Saudi conditions were communicated to the Yemeni president in San'a', he was furious and decided to reject them on the pretense of not wishing to lose his "special interests" with his Soviet friends. This prompted Saudi Arabia to make its unannounced decision to halt its financial support for North Yemen. The Yemeni president answered the Saudi attitude by issuing an order to pay the wages of the Yemeni employees out of the budget reserves, despite the Yemeni finance minister's warning about the seriousness of such a measure. He also ordered that all students studying in Saudi universities be recalled to San'a'.

It appears that the attitude of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was a deliberate one and was taken after consultations with his colleague, Aden President 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, and his men who are now ruling San'a'. He had also studied the situation with the Soviet Union, which is diligently trying to establish a firm foothold for itself in San'a' as it has done in Aden. If the Soviet Union cannot find a solution in its budget to the problem of financial support, then the primary alternative candidate to Saudi Arabia is Al-Qadhdhafi, who has good relations with the Yemeni president since he allowed the Yemeni Hasirite refugees in Libya to return to San'a'.

Has the Yemeni-Saudi crisis ended at this point? And what will be the Yemeni president's next step away from Saudi Arabia? All reports emerging from San'a' emphasize that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is carrying out comprehensive radical changes to establish a government in all spheres that is compatible with the communist regime in Aden, in order to rid Yemen of the "reactionary" tendencies. The first step San'a' will now take is to have all the Yemeni parties, including the Communist Democratic Front, merge into one party to be called the unified Yemeni organization, which will announce "the unified action charter" preparatory to forming a new Yemeni coalition government, in which six communists will participate for the first time in Yemen's history.

By these serious measures, the Yemeni president will have carried out the Soviet advice of finding a common language for an understanding with the similar institutions in Aden, as a practical step toward the achievement of Yemeni unity along Soviet lines.

The question is: Is Saudi Arabia oblivious of the seriousness of the Soviet game, now that the Soviets have marched on San'a' and have begun knocking on the doors of Saudi Arabia?

AKHBAR AL-YAWM NOTES GROUPING PARTY'S QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES

NC231106 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 23 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 February--A number of proprietors of Egyptian tourist companies, hotels and trade establishments have decided to lodge an urgent lawsuit against the Grouping Party, headed by Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, because of pamphlets that were distributed last week that the Egyptian companies consider to be incitive and an attempt to harm and subvert them.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM today says the leftist Grouping Party has distributed a pamphlet to news agencies and the Arab rejectionist papers that calls for boycotting a number of Egyptian companies alleged to be dealing with Israel. The Grouping Party also submitted a list describing it as the first in a series that would include a great number of names and addresses of Egyptian public and private sector tourist, cultural, industrial, aviation and hotel companies.

The paper says that the rejectionist papers devoted large columns to publishing the Grouping Party's report. These papers stressed that the leftist Grouping Party's demands must be met, that these companies must be boycotted and that the new lists the Grouping Party promised to issue must be watched for.

The rejectionist papers were not content with calling for a boycott of these companies but incited terrorist elements to carry out acts of vengeance against them in order to frighten them and create domestic divisions in Egypt.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM notes the statement made by the chairman of the board of one of these companies in which he says that this is a new 18-19 January subversive attempt to sabotage Egyptian establishments and subvert the Egyptian economy. The list includes companies that do not deal with Israel apparently in an attempt to destroy any Egyptian establishment and spread destruction and chaos.

The director general of an industrial company that was listed by the Grouping Party said that the leftist party not only mentioned the name of the company but also its address and specified the locations of its offices and factories. He said that this act was considered to be a public call to sabotage any industrial company owned by the Egyptian people, and that such an act would involve the party in a lawsuit.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM says that the Grouping Party's report included the name of a bookshop in central Cairo, mentioned the full name and address of its owner, and said that it distributed Israeli publications in Egypt. The Arab rejectionist papers considered this to be a justification to call on terrorists to attack the bookshop and endanger those who frequent it.

The Grouping Party's report mentioned the name of a well-known hotel in Cairo and called for intimidating it on the pretext that it receives Israelis.

A responsible source said that the Grouping Party's act was unprecedented and affirmed that it ignored the public interest by inciting foreign parties to sabotage public and private companies. This source also said that the step taken by the Grouping Party was considered very grave because:

1. There are close contacts between the party and others acting against Egypt. The Grouping Party's leadership provided the Arab papers with information on Egyptian companies.

2. The Grouping Party is levelling unsubstantiated accusations against companies. Who knows; perhaps hostility could arise between a leader of this party and one of these companies that would prompt the party leader to incite people against the company and endanger it, particularly since the party promised to provide hostile elements with new lists.

BRIEFS

UK TRAINING COURSES--Cairo, March 5--(MENA)--The British postal, cable and wireless trade union has agreed to provide training courses for personnel of its Egyptian counterpart to help improve these services in Egypt. The agreement was reached in the final meeting between a British delegation and the Egyptian trade union tonight. Earlier today the British delegation conferred with Labour Manpower Minister Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad. An Egyptian delegation will visit Britain in July to take part in drawing up details of the training courses. The British delegation will leave Cairo tomorrow for London at the end of a 10-day stay in Egypt. [Text] [Cairo MENA in English 1900 GMT 5 Mar 80 NC]

JORDANIAN CROWN PRINCE MEETS SADDAM HUSAYN

JN061243 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Mar 80 JN

[Text] At his official office in the Republican Palace at noon today, President Saddam Husayn received His Highness Jordanian Crown Prince Hasayn ibn Talal. During the meeting, which was attended by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, discussion centered on the most important recent events in the Arab arena and on ways of bolstering the Arab struggle, in order to confront the imperialist and Zionist challenges.

A discussion was also held on the fraternal relations linking the two fraternal states in the various fields and on ways of promoting these relations in a way that will support the process of construction and development and achieve further progress and stability for the Arab people in the two states.

The meeting was attended by Staff Col Tariq al-Hamad al-'Abdallah, secretary general of the RCC and acting director of presidential office; and by Jordanian Minister of Court 'Amir Khammash.

Ends Visit

JN061322 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 6 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 6 March--Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal of Jordan and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad today following a 5-day visit to Iraq. Crown Prince Hasan was seen off at Baghdad international airport by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, the RCC members, the ministers and high-ranking Iraqi officials.

TARIQ 'AZIZ REVIEWS FOREIGN POLICY; CONDEMNS SOVIETS

NC040741 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 29 Feb 80 p 6 NC

[Report by TERCUMAN correspondent Kenan Akin who has just returned from Baghdad]

[Excerpts] Despite Turkish Foreign Minister Erkmen's official announcement on the execution of our five fellow Turks in Iraq, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister of Iraq and member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, has stated that he had no information on this matter and added: "In fact, this is our domestic affair. These rumors are harmful to both sides.

Answering TERCUMAN's questions, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said relations between Turkey and Iraq should not be upset. On the contrary, Iraq wants to see these relations further improved.

The following are abridged answers given by the Iraqi deputy prime minister on such matters as Iraq's new foreign policy, the Persian Gulf, the occupation of Afghanistan, Iraqi-Iran relations and the execution of five Turks:

The Execution of Five Turks

"I have no information on this matter. However, in reply to your question, I wish to state that in Iraq, capital punishment is inflicted on those who perpetrate serious crimes. This punishment covers felonies.

When crimes affecting the security of the Iraqi state are committed, the perpetrator gets the same punishment regardless of whether he is a Kurd, a Turokman, an Arab or an Assyrian. They are all equal before the law. I understand from your question that you wish me to make a statement on the reports published in Turkey. But, like other countries, Iraq is not obliged to make a statement on its domestic affairs. As a matter of fact, there is no need for this."

Iraq's New Foreign Policy

"One of the most important elements in Iraq's new foreign policy is that it advocates the settlement of disputes both between the Arabs themselves and between the Arabs and their neighbors through peaceful methods, without the use of force. In an area full of problems and disputes, the use of force for the settlement of disputes does more harm than good. Iraq has defended this view for a long time. Recently, president Saddam Husayn has strongly urged all the Arab states to embrace this view. We now maintain a clear and firm attitude in this respect."

The Persian Gulf

"No matter what the reasons may be, we are definitely opposed to foreign forces entering the Arab Gulf or staying there. We can only consent to UN intervention when several countries in the area encounter a danger. Otherwise, we believe that a permanent force is a constant source of danger."

The Occupation of Afghanistan

"We vehemently condemn Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. This intervention is totally unjustifiable. We openly express our disapproval and demand Soviet withdrawal. As you have stated in your question, the biggest attraction for the superpowers to this region is oil wealth. It is high time that the states possessing this wealth form their own defense system in order to protect this wealth. Threats connected with oil are creating unrest in the area. All superpowers should stop threatening the Gulf and the oil-producing Gulf states."

Iraq-Iran Relations

"As you implied in your question, Iraqi-Iranian relations are frozen. There are several forces in Iran working against Iraq. We wish to establish cordial relations with Iran, but we are not familiar with their thoughts and intentions. The Iranian press is trying to blacken all aspects of Iraq. These efforts have had no effect in Iraq. The people are now integrated with the revolution. Efforts to blacken Iraq are not to Iran's advantage. If the provocations and accusations continue, the path to peace will be blocked."

Iraqi-Turkish Relations

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Revolutionary Command Council, President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people always wish Turkey success, progress and a decent standard of living. This is all we wish and hope for Turkey. The reports fabricated about our domestic affairs are detrimental to the friendship between the two countries.

FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD ARRIVES 6 MAR

JN061844 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Mar 80 JN

[Text] His Excellency French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and his wife arrived in Aqaba today on a 2-day private visit to Jordan to be followed by a 3-day official visit that will begin on Saturday morning.

CROWN PRINCE RETURNS FROM AREA TOUR

JN061725 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Mar 80 JN

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan returned to Amman from Baghdad this afternoon at the end of a 9-day tour of Kuwait, Qatar and Iraq. During this tour, his highness the crown prince met with the leaders of the countries he visited, discussed with them the development of relations between their countries and Jordan and reviewed with them the situation in the Arab area.

Court Minister 'Amir Khammash, His Majesty King Husayn's envoy to His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn returned with his highness the crown prince.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and the delegation accompanying him were welcomed by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the chief chamberlain, the chief justice, senior government and military officials and the ambassador of the countries his highness visited.

AWQAF MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET MUSLIM DELEGATION

JN051147 Amman JNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 5 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Amman, 5 March--Minister of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places Kamil ash-Sharif met yesterday with the Soviet Muslim delegation currently visiting Jordan. During the meeting several issues concerning the strengthening of cultural and religious ties between Jordan and the USSR were discussed.

The Soviet Muslim delegation arrived in Amman yesterday for a visit of several days, during which they and officials at the Ministry of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places will discuss means of bolstering cooperation in religious fields.

Abd al-Gani Abdulla, deputy chairman of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan and head of the delegation, said that he brings the greetings of USSR Muslims to their Muslim brothers in Jordan.

PAPERS CRITICIZE CARTER'S RETRACTION OF UN VOTE

JN050748 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Mar 80 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Today's Amman papers devote their comments to last Friday's UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel's settlement on occupied Arab territory, the Israeli Cabinet's decision rejecting this resolution and the U.S. administration's retraction on its vote supporting the resolutions.

AL-AKHBAR says: Our long expreience with the Zionist settlers has taught us that Israel will neither change its policy nor heed the UN resolution and world public opinion.

But the United States has a special responsibility to the UN Security Council, peace in this area and the world, and to the principles and morals governing international relations in the 20th century. Had another country supported the UN resolution and then gone back on its decision the action would have been termed backward, immoral and irresponsible.

AR-RA'Y says: It seems that Yitzhaq Rabin's threats against the U.S. administration for supporting the UN resolution that calls for dismantlement of the Israeli settlements have worked. The former Israeli premier called on Jews to oppose the U.S. administration in the American elections. Thus, President Carter had no choice but to go back on his decision quickly and to announce that his country was wrong in voting for the resolution.

At any rate, this strange U.S. retreat does not cancel the UN resolution's significance and potency as an expression of international unanimity against the fait accompli represented by the Israeli settlements, a unanimity that calls for dismantlement of the existing settlements. The U.S. retreat before the Israeli threats is the best proof that the United States alone is not qualified to tackle the Middle East issue. This retreat should prompt the international community to assume its responsibility and the European nations to seriously raise the issue within the United Nations or before the Security Council, so that the international community, including the USSR, can participate in finding a just and comprehensive solution, one which restores peace and security to the region, without permitting Rabin's threats to have any effect on those working for the desired solution.

AD-DUSTUR says: When the United States supported the UN resolution, we thought that the American administration had finally had enough of Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territory. But we were surprised by the U.S. President's statement retracting American support for the resolutions.

We have always pointed out the vacillation in U.S. Middle East policy and have always been accused of incriminating others. And now President Carter barely plucked up the courage to support a simple resolution condemning the settlements, as did the whole world and he himself on several occasions in the past, when he quickly went back on his decision, thereby pulling the rug from underneath his representative, McHenry, exactly as he did with McHenry's predecessor, Andrew Young.

ARAB DETERRENT FORCES WITHDRAWING FROM BEIRUT

NC070850 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 7 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The deterrent forces have withdrawn from all parts of the eastern suburb of the capital. The transfer between the deterrent forces and the Lebanese Army was normal and calm. It was preceded by contacts between the two commands to set the time for the Syrian withdrawal and the Lebanese takeover. As of now, the deterrent forces are outside the Al-Jumhur area following their assembly in the Al-Hazimiyah area. These withdrawals and movements toward the Al-Biqa' area will continue.

Our correspondents indicate that the deterrent forces have withdrawn from Al-Hazimiyah, Jisr al-Basha, Hursh Thabit, Qasr al-Hilu, Jisr al-Wati, Al-Hayik circle, Salome, the Rizqallah gasoline station, Dahr al-Jamal, Tallat al-Mir, Tall az-Za'tar, Al-Mukallis, Ra's as-Dikwanah, the Chevrolet, Opel, Mazda and Datsun areas, Al-Hayat hospital, Mar Mikhayil, Boulevard Camille Sham'un and the textile factory at the entrance to Al-Hadath.

The deterrent forces continue to assemble in upper Al-Matn, Duhur ash-Shuwayr and Al-Muruj. Arms, heavy artillery, rocket launchers, tanks and heavy armor vehicles are moving to bhamdun and on to the Al-Biqa' area where the forces are regrouping.

A semiofficial source has said that the transfer of other areas in the northeastern part of the capital to the Lebanese Army will take place in the next 24 hours. The source affirmed that the operation was decided and agreed upon by the Lebanese Army and the Arab deterrent forces commands.

DETAINES EXCHANGED IN BEIRUT, ZGHARDA

NC051342 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 5 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The exchange of detainees in Beirut and Zharta took place this morning by helicopters through the army command in Al-Yarzah. A meeting was held by the Phalangist war council at 0745 today during which it was decided that Phalangist war policemen would accompany the northern detainees to the museum area where a Lebanese army unit would be waiting to receive them. The unit moved the detainees to Al-Yarzah by military vehicles and from there helicopters took them to Zgharta, where they arrived at 1130.

Before leaving Beirut, Franjiyah and his fellows thanked the Phalangists for the good treatment accorded the detainees from the first week of their detention. The detainees were given every comfort, including books, television sets, radios and daily papers. In addition, doctors visited them weekly and provided medical care and medicine to a detainee who suffered from an ulcer. He was provided with medicine and special food and care by two specialists.

The detainees expressed special thanks to Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, Bashir al-Jumayyil, the pillars of the Phalangist community and all those who contributed to settling this issue.

AFP Report

NC051327 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 5 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Beirut, March 5 (AFP)--Six supporters of former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah were exchanged for 23 rightists today after being held by rightist Phalangist militia since September, a reliable source said. The exchange was carried out in northern Lebanon, under the supervision of the Maronite Christian Church and the Lebanese Red Cross. The two groups, allies during the civil was in the 1970's, fell out after Phalangists assassinated Mr Franjiyah's son in June 1978. Sources added that agreement had also been reached to release Edmond Rizq, a leading Phalangist, in the next few days. Mr Rizo was kidnaped last month by Mr Franjiyah's supporters.

USSR OFFICIAL REITERATES SOVIET SUPPORT FOR SYRIA

JN070614 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Chairman of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society (Vladimir Lomonotiv) has praised Syria's struggle against imperialism, Zionism and their agents.

In his address in Moscow last night on the occasion marking the 17th anniversary of the 8 March revolution, (Lomonotov) empahasized that Soviet-Syrian relations are developing successfully. The Soviet Union will continue its support for Syria, proceeding from its firm political principles, he added.

In a speech on the same occasion, Syrian Ambassador in Moscow Jabr al-Kafri reiterated that the uproar created by the imperialist circles on Iran and Afghanistan is a link in the chain of U.S. plots to create tension in the area and throughout the world. He added that the U.S. plots are also aimed at destroying the friendship between the Arab people and their allies in the socialist countries.

KHADDAM: USSR MIDEAST PRESENCE TO 'BALANCE' U.S. EFFORTS

LD061637 Paris LE FIGARO in French 5 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[Jorg Stocklin undated Damascus interview with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam: "We Would Like the USSR To Play a More Important Role in the Near East"]

[Text] "If the Americans want to confront the Soviets, let them do it directly, without trying to deceive the Arab countries and involve them in a conflict which has nothing to do with them." This is the opinion which the Syrian foreign minister expressed--on behalf, he explained, of Arab countries, Islam and the Third World.

In fact, during the interview which he granted us in Damascus, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam tried to clarify his country's attitude to any resumption of the cold war. Syria, which has opposed the U.S.-sponsored Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement, is with South Yemen among the few Arab countries which have not condemned the Soviet Union following the "Kabul coup." "The USSR," he believes, "has a role to play in the Near East, a role linked with the U.S. role in this region." Referring to Lebanon, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam justified Syria's desire to disengage its forces by saying the act would arouse the Lebanese state and parties "from their deep slumber." For the benefit of the Christian parties, he also asserted that Israel has encouraged Palestinian moves in Lebanon.

Here are the main points of this interview:

The United States, the Arabs and Islam: "It would be a mistake to believe that, as a result of the events in Afghanistan, the United States has acieved a breakthrough in the Near East. Arabs and Muslims have fully realized that the most serious--and most immediate--danger confronting them stems from Israel. Jerusalem, the Palestine and the Golan Heights are still occupied by the Israelis. As a result, 2 million Arabs--and Muslims--have been expelled from their country....

"It is the United States which supplies Israel with the formidable military and economic aid which is used against the Arab world. It is the United States which has hammered out the Camp David accords, unanimously been rejected by all Arab states except Egypt. And there can be no doubt that the projection of an international conflict previously limited to the region's periphery right into the center of the Near East is the most serious consequence of the American policy stemming from Camp David.

"Since it opted for full partnership in the Camp David accords, the United States bears full responsibility for this state of affairs. Now it is in the interest of no Arab or Muslim country and no Third World country to serve as instrument in the present conflict between the two superpowers. Syria does not want to be involved in this conflict. And that is why we did not participate in the recent Islamic conference in Islamabad...."

The Soviet Union: "The USSR," 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam stressed, "is playing a role in the Middle East. We hope that this role will be adequate--adequate to balance U.S. attempts to extend its influence in the region. A more extensive role, therefore....

"In our view the balance of forces in the region does not depend on the revival of some international conference on the Middle East in Geneva or elsewhere. I repeat that our principal concern is to face the danger posed by the Camp David agreements, which are a major obstacle to peace in the Middle East...."

The situation in Lebanon: "It is true that things are not going well in Lebanon, and it has to be decided whether the Syrian troops are to stay in that country indefinitely.... When we went to Lebanon we were acting on 'natural' considerations--to put an end to a civil war. We wanted to help the Lebanese state to restore its authority over all its territory, to restore national unity, and furthermore to safeguard the Palestinian resistance, which was threatened with liquidation....

"Three and a half years later no step has been taken toward attaining these objectives, which are nonetheless the objectives of all Lebanese people. Nothing has been done by the Lebanese leaders to encourage national understanding. Some leaders in Beirut are even unwilling to assume their own responsibilities. On the other hand, what we have noticed is that some parties are developing to the detriment of the state and of legality. In these circumstances our decision to redeploy our forces away from Beirut was inevitable. We thought that this decision would arouse many people and prompt them to work in Lebanon's interests.

"On this subject I would like to point out:

"1. That Syria poses no 'preconditions' as to the form which national reconciliation in Lebanon should take. This is a purely Lebanese problem.

"2. That it is up to the Lebanese to decide whether or not to give priority to the reorganization of certain bodies (such as the army)....

"3. That the (Christian) parties involved in collaboration with Israel are seriously harming Lebanon. These parties have failed to understand that the Camp David agreements encourage the settlement of the Palestinians 'where they now are.' Indeed, the so-called Palestinian autonomy plan negotiated at Camp David only relates to the Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Consequently, the other Palestinians will stay where they are.... That is why we condemn contacts between Israel and certain Lebanese parties which form part of a policy hostile to the interests of Lebanon and the Arab world."

INFORMATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON ARAB, FOREIGN ISSUES

JN051833 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has made a comprehensive statement to the Lebanese newspaper ASH-SHARAQ in which he stressed that national unity in Syria is firmly established and that Syria is ready to face all eventualities. He said that the hand that plots against Syria and tries to weaken it will be cut off and that sabotage attempt will be severely repressed.

In reply to a question about the presence of centers of power in Syria, the information minister stressed that there are no such centers in Syria and added: This matter was settled for good with the rise of the corrective movement in 1970. The decisions taken, he said, were not only aimed at preventing the emergence of such forces and centers, but also at consolidating our national unity and strengthening Syria's internal structure so that Syria will not only be able to stand fast but seek to achieve our national and pan-Arab aims.

In reply to a question on the cohesion of the national unity in the face of outside dangers and attempts to trigger internal sedition, the minister stressed that national unity is firmly established and has never been so strong. He added: Our national unity is our basis for steadfastness. It is also the basis we depend on in achieving all our victories.

The minister added: Our national unity is a certain and deeply entrenched fact. It is the unity that worries all our enemies; it is the unity that frightens them. Therefore, this unity is the target of their psychological war and their defamation campaigns against Syria. They fear any increase in efficiency and strength of this unity in the face of the pressures they are currently exercising on the Arab nation, particularly Syria, which constitutes the vanguard of this nation and the first confrontation line in defense of the entire pan-Arab existence.

Replying to a question about some attempts to stir internal sedition and the link between these attempts and outside pressures, the information minister stressed that the attempts aimed at stirring up sedition in Syria have failed due to the citizens' awareness. He said: All attempts at internal murder and sabotage in Syria are directly linked to the imperialist-Zionist scheme aimed against Syria's regime, people and future. He added that the internal pressure attempts against Syria are part of the outside pressure attempts, accompanied on an equal footing with the U.S. threats and Israeli concentrations as well as economic and political presusres, the psychological campaign and the information campaign launched against Syria. All these matters, he said, go hand in hand as they are inseparable from the war currently being launched against Syria's political stand. The question is, he said, why they fight Syria's political stand. Our enemies know that Syria is the starting point and the basis. To say that Syria derives its strength from the Arab nation is correct.

The information minister stressed that Syria realizes that neither U.S. imperialism nor world Zionism will triumph as long as Syria is strong. He added: Our enemies also realize this fact, so they try to weaken Syria, but the Syrian people, party and government as well as leadership and citizens reply to this with further cohesion, efforts and fast march toward the attainment of development in the various fields. This is because strengthening Syria's internal situation and consolidating Syria's national economy are our basis for steadfastness.

In his reply to a question about the threats Egypt's ruler once made in which he said Syria and Lebanon will be flooded by a sea of blood, the information minister explained that As-Sadat was not threatening in his own name but on behalf of his masters: Israel and U.S. imperialism.

Replying to a question on the sources of financing and training of the Muslim Brotherhood gang, the information minister said: This Muslim Brotherhood gang, which works to wreck the Syrian internal situation, kill the innocent and destroy some economic installations, is directly linked with Israel and the United States. All the enemies of the Arabs deal with this gang and back up its acts. Those enemies think that as long as Syria is strong the U.S.-Zionist scheme cannot succeed in the Arab homeland--no matter what form, color or slogans those enemies show or hide behind.

The minister stressed that this gang is isolated both on the internal and Arab levels. He said: The Arab citizens in any Arab state honestly believe that any attempt to weaken Syria serves Israel in the first place, and that any defamation of Syria under any slogan or allegation whatsoever is only an implementation of an Israel-U.S. desire.

The minister explained that financing for this gang comes from abroad and that investigation has proved this. Investigation has also proved this gang's direct contacts with the Israeli intelligence organs, the minister said. He stressed that there are non-Syrians working with this gang. He said there is close cooperation between Israeli intelligence, the Phalangists and the Muslim Brotherhood gang. He added: You know as well as anyone that the Israeli and Phalangist party's information media are at the disposal of the Muslim Brotherhood and their spiteful acts of instigating riots in Syria. He added that these do not cooperate only on the information level but also in implementing the Israeli-U.S. scheme aimed against Syria.

In his reply to a question about the extent of the connection between the decision to redeploy the Syrian forces operating within the Arab Deterrent Forces and the internal situation in Syria, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad affirmed that this decision has nothing to do with the internal situation in Syria. He said: Those circulating tendentious campaigns against Syria imagine that Syria's internal situation is so confused that it needs to take greater precautions. He said: The acts disrupting security in Syria are only a very small percentage of what is taking place in other countries.

The minister wondered why this great exaggeration of what is taking place in Syria. He said: This exaggeration is part of the psychological war launched against citizens in Syria and against the Syrian Arab people. It is a war aimed at shaking the Syrian citizen's confidence in himself and in his future. It eventually wants him to divert his attention from the battle he must wage against the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and against the U.S. imperialist-Zionist schemes to side issues of no importance.

The minister affirmed that there will be no retraction at all of the decision to redeploy the forces and said: There has been some delay in carrying out the decision in response to the Lebanese Government's request and all Lebanese political forces. We have delayed the implementation of this decision in response to these requests, hoping that all will shoulder their responsibility and do what they have not done in past years. The minister said: We want all to care for Lebanon, its unity and Arabism and not to deal with the enemies of Lebanon. All those who believe in these aims will find the Syrian hand extended to help them.

Replying to a question about the decision to redeploy the forces and possible Israeli aggression, the minister stressed that the Middle East situation was one of the reasons for deciding to redeploy the forces. He said: We are in a continuous state of war with Israel. Being alert to Israel's aggressive intentions is essential and we will never be careless about it. The minister also said that confronting any aggression is not solely dependent on the efficiency of the general Arab situation. He said: As long as we in Syria are the target, we should take into consideration the fact that we must always be capable of replying to aggression.

In replying to a question on why Syria did not participate in the Islamabad conference, the information minister said: Syria did not participate in the Islamabad conference because in the first place it is a Muslim state and its people care for Islamic values and the holy places. It is, therefore, not possible for Syria to attend a conference which wants to divert the attention of the Arabs and Muslims from the occupation of Muslim shrines and the continued Israeli occupation of holy Jerusalem and the rest of the Arab territories to fight windmills; namely, the imaginary enemies whom U.S. imperialism wants to make the focus of our attention. We did not go to the Islamabad conference because we refuse to be a toy in the hands of the United States and because we refuse to allow any one to distract our attention from the occupied Arab territories and the occupied Islamic shrines. What is required is an Islamic conference to take the necessary measures to confront the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territory and holy Jerusalem. He stressed that our battle is to liberate the occupied territories and that we have no other battle. He said: The Muslims direct their eyes to occupied Jerusalem and no other place. We refuse to distract attention under any formula or slogan.

Reply to a question about the trend toward the emergence of a third Arab camp that will weaken the power of the camp opposing Camp David, the minister said: The commitment to the Arab stand unanimously adopted at the ninth Arab summit makes all the Arab states which participated in that conference oppose As-Sadat's treasonous trend, the Camp David accords and all their repercussions. He added: We in Syria believe that commitment to the Arab League charter, the joint Arab defense charter and the political resolutions unanimously adopted by the Arabs at the ninth and 10th Arab summit meetings are enough to mobilize the Arab potentials and employ them in the service of the main battle--toppling the regime of treason in Egypt and confronting the imperialist-Zionist scheme in the Arab region. Any attempt made by any party in the Arab homeland to divert our attention from the main battle against the Israeli occupation of Arab territory is condemned and rejected by us.

U.S. President Jimmy Carter has called on the Islamic states, particularly the Arab states, to form alliances to defend themselves against what he termed Soviet danger and Soviet overrunning of the region. The danger we see and have been exposed to for years comes from the United States and its agent Israel. We are not exposed to any other danger today. The information minister stressed that U.S. President Jimmy Carter's call for the establishment of new alliances and charters serves Israel and As-Sadat's policy. It is an exposed call regardless of how it may be decorated with slogans and words blared out in the Arab homeland by certain people. The minister said: We are committed to one thing from which we will never deviate: It is our Arab nation's interest and the defense of its pan-Arab existence which is threatened by the Israeli occupation of Arab territory and by this continued occupation of the Islamic shrines. We do not have and will not have a more noble, important or urgent issue than that of liberating the occupied Arab territories.

In reply to another question, the minister affirmed that relations between Syria and the Soviet Union are very good. He explained: We have firmly established strategic friendly relations with the Soviet Union. These relations are based on firm bases of mutual confidence, respect and noninterference in internal affairs. He said: Our relations with the friendly Soviet Union in various fields are very good and we seek to consolidate and promote them.

In reply to a question on Syrian-Iranian relations and a possible visit to Iran by President Hafiz al-Asad, the minister of information affirmed that our relations with Iran are prominent. He praised Iran's stands on the Arab cause and its adoption of the resolutions unanimously adopted by the Arabs at the ninth Arab summit against As-Sadat and the Camp David accords. He said: We appreciate the role of the Iranian Revolution and we are establishing the closest possible relations with it in various fields. He added: We believe that establishing good relations with the Iranian Revolution and supporting this revolution so it can settle down and devote time to help the Arabs liberate their occupied territories is the duty of every Arab who believes that Israel and U.S. imperialism are the danger to be faced.

He added: Ayatollah Khomeyni, the Iranian national leader, extended an invitation to Al-Asad to visit Iran immediately after the victory of the Iranian Revolution. This invitation was also renewed by former Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan and by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. President al-Asad will certainly comply with this invitation when circumstances are suitable for both the Syrian and Iranian sides.

INFORMATION MINISTER CONFIRMS INCIDENTS IN ALEPPO

NC061406 Cairo DPA in Arabic 1335 GMT 6 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Damascus, 6 March--Syria today confirmed reports that a new wave of violent events had broken out in Aleppo in northern Syria. Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad told DPA that there had been attempts to stage a commercial strike and that bomb attacks had occurred on some resturants and shops selling liquor.

The information minister confirmed [words indistinct] from Ankara that there is no relationship between the incidents in Aleppo and the current disturbances in Turkey. He attacked the foreign powers whcih he said are trying together, with the gangs in Syria, to put pressure on the independent policy of the country.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BENDJEDID RECEIVES FOREIGN ENVOYS

Tunisian Minister

LD061747 Algiers APS in English 1647 GMT 6 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Algiers, 6 March (APS)--President Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general, received today at presidency headquarters Mr Fouad Mbazaa, Tunisia's minister of information and cultural affairs, and President Bourguiba's special envoy.

Mr Abdelmalek Benhabyles, Central Committee member and presidency secretary general, and Tunisia's ambassador to Algiers attended the meeting.

Mauritanian Minister

LD061748 Algiers APS in English 1648 GMT 6 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Algiers, 6 March (APS)--President Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general, received today at presidency headquarters Mr Ahmed Ould Sidi Henena, Mauritania's minister of information, culture and telecommunications, who handed him a message from Mauritania's head of state.

The Mauritanian ambassador to Algiers and Mr Zerguini, Central Committee member and telecommunications minister, attended the meeting.

ALGERIAN-LIBERIAN INTERPARTY TALKS OPEN IN ALGIERS

LD061009 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 27 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[APS report: "Start of FLN/Liberian True Whig Party Political Discussion"]

[Text] Algiers--Political discussions began yesterday morning at the Zirout Youcef Palace between the National Liberation Front (FLN) and the Liberian True Whig Party. The Algerian delegation was headed by Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui, Politburo member and party coordinator, accompanied by Sliman Hoffman, Central Committee member and international relations commission representative; and Ahmed Sbaa, Central Committee member and emigree division president. The Liberian delegation was headed by True Whig Party President Reginald Townsend accompanied by Liberian Minister of State James N'davis.

The discussions continued through the lunch given in honor of the Liberian delegation by Politburo member and party coordinator Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui. The discussions, which continued in late afternoon with a review by the head of the FLN publications department, will resume this morning.

LIBYA

TRIPOLI DISMISSES CARTER'S CLAIM TO SUPPORT MUSLIMS

LD061848 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Mar 80 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Last night Carter went into your mosques and said the 'isha' [evening] prayers with his dirty shoes on; he then mounted the pulpit the declared at the top of his voice that he would protect the Muslims.

He then sat down in the pulpit as imams do, and then rose to his feet and announced that he was apologizing to the Israelis as a result of the attitude taken by his delegate at the United Nations with regard to the condemnation of the establishment of settlements in the occupied Arab territories. After some words spoken softly, he then said that he supports Israel, and called on the Jews in the United States to give him their votes in the forthcoming election. Carter then descended and took Al-Wird [prayer book] in his hands and began to read. He then went to sleep in the mosque with his dirty shoes on.

Before him, other U.S. Presidents entered mosques in Indonesia, Morocco and Egypt, as well as Damascus and the Peninsula and every spot in the Muslim world. Before the Americans, peoples from Europe entered the mosques; some entered on horseback with swords drawn, while others went in carrying their books, ideas and beliefs.

Carter entered the mosque and said prayers with his dirty shoes on. He said prayers after Kissinger had called him to prayer from the top of minaret. Both went to sleep inside the mosque near the pulpit. Muslims rejoiced. The United States has become Islamic. Islam has become American. The U.S. President has become a Muslim. From inside the mosque Carter called on the Muslim leaders to hold conferences to support him and bless him. He called on them to become the enemies of his enemies. The U.S. President has become a Muslim; a Muslim is a brother of another Muslim and should support him whether he is in the right or wrong. The Muslim U.S. President was treated unjustly by Israel when it asked him to tear up the resolution taken by the international community and disregard the international community's views, and then retract from the attitude which his country had taken, just like children usually do. Who can support him save his brothers and the tribe whose mosque he has entered and which he has joined?

The U.S. President has been unjustly treated. He has decided to boycott the Olympic Games. But his decision has not been backed. Who can support him save those whose mosque he has entered? The U.S. President wants oil and oil revenues; the oil region in the Gulf is being threatened. The people of the Gulf are good people, but they do not appreciate the dangers of such a threat; they do not realize that the U.S. President has the lion's share of the oil which is located under their own ground; the person who has this lion's share is a friend and a brother; he is inside the mosque. Who should support him except his brothers and friends?

The Muslim President took the oil and sent his fleets to protect it. He opened his banks to receive the oil revenues. He established the rapid deployment force to pounce on the oil wells. Muslims rejoiced; Carter rejoiced more. Kissinger called for prayers. Kissinger the muezzin of the imam. The President mounted the pulpit and announced at the top of his voice that American technology has decided to transfer the Ka'bah from its place to Washington. Muslim shaykhs and leaders who prayed behind Carter hurried to Washington and asked: What is the fate of Jerusalem? The U.S. President [words indistinct] with the Muslims, said: But the question of Jerusalem is finished; do you now know? Begin loves Jerusalem; and I have decided to sell Jerusalem to him on your behalf and in your name. You have given me the keys to Jerusalem. They are really golden keys, but Begin is a sick man and I cannot make him angry.

Those who hurried to Washington rejoiced and gave Carter some bags containing gold sovereigns and asked him to deposit these bags containing gold sovereigns in their names in American banks. They wished him well and then returned to hold a conference which they described as historic. The conference issued resolutions; then the complete dossier, with added comments and signature was handed over to the President who has become a Muslim. The Muslims rejoiced and went to sleep happy, the President of the United States, with all its technology, has entered the mosque; Kissinger has called for prayers; Carter has said prayers.

Then a man came from the farthest point in the desert. He entered the mosque at dawn for prayers. But when he saw Carter asleep under the pulpit, he asked: What is this man doing here? The shaykh at the mosque replied: This is our new brother; he is the defender of Muslims. The man became angry and said: This is a deception and falsification. Is he not the man who armed Israel? Is he not the man who made Egypt kneel until it was lying flat on its stomach? Is he not the man who is threatening the security of the Gulf and thieving the oil revenues? Is he not the man who is enslaving the blacks in the United States? Is he not the man who is using his fleets to carry out acts of aggression against the freedom of the peaceful peoples? The man who has come from the desert went on: Enough is enough. Where is Jerusalem? Is not the United States the country which usurped Jerusalem and handed it over to the Zionists? Let this man leave this place. Islam cannot be American. But before he leaves let all those who gave him permission to enter the mosque leave. The people asked: Who gave him permission to enter? Deception, trickery and the justification of exploitation made it possible for him to enter.

Therefore, it is inevitable that an end be put to deception and trickery as well as the justification of exploitation. This can only be achieved through a religious revolution which purges the souls of Muslims and removes the foundations of lies, and brings down the pulpits on the heads of those who permitted, throughout our entire history, the infiltration of strangers and their cultures, so much so that [words indistinct] became wide spread in Islamic religious laws, paganism prevailed, and the banners of blasphemy were openly raised. When such a religious revolution takes place, its fires will burn all those who have turned Islam into a political card to be exploited by the imperialists. Then the people will realize that they had been outside (?history) and that through this religious revolution they are returning to occupy their rightful places under the sun as God's religion wanted them to be, and not as Carter wanted.

U.S. 'PRO-ISRAELI BIAS,' PLOTS AGAINST ARABS CONDEMNED

LD062112 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Mar 80 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The United States is openly and absolutely biased in favor of the racist Zionist enemy and is against the Arab nation. This pro-Zionist American policy has been pursued by successive American administrations from Truman right up through the present administration.

Competition and rivalry among these American administrations in showing a total bias for Israel has characterized all of them, and is in fact their common denominator. This means that the U.S. bias for the Zionist enemy is a pillar of U.S. policy and that the United States--unless it feels certain that the Arabs will use their power and capabilities to confront its shabby treatment of them, to confront its conspiracy against them and to confront its bias for the enemy and its alliance with it--will not abandon this attitude. Rather, it will become even more biased and will further conspire against the Arab nation.

It is the United States who arms the Zionist enemy and provides it with economic and political support, despite the fact that this enemy is usurping Arab land and despite the fact that the United States has interests in the Arab homeland. In other words, the United States wants to bring two contradictions together: It wants to maintain its interests in the Arab homeland and continue its flagrant bias for the Zionist enemy.

No doubt America's continued pursuit of this policy stems from its willingness to bet on the assumption that the situation in the region will remain unchanged. This is certainly a losing bet, because the Arabs, whose land has been usurped and whose existence is threatened by the racist Zionist enemy--which is planning with U.S. assistance and instigation to expand into Arab land--will not stand idle and because the Arabs--who know that the United States has interests in the region and that those interests are very important and serious--will not allow the inverted American equation to impose itself on them indefinitely. It is also because the Arabs are not at all like the capitulationist regime or that hesitant side. Rather, they are the popular masses from the ocean to the Gulf who have decided to confront the United States, the capitulationist policy and the reality which is unjust to their nation.

The United States is the one who weaved the Camp David conspiracy to perpetuate the Zionist occupation of the Arab land and to eliminate the rights of the Arab nation in usurped Palestine. The United States is the one which provides the money spent by the Zionist enemy on the construction of settlements in the occupied Arab land. The United States is the one who came up with the tripartite alliance conspiracy between itself, the defeated Egyptian regime and the racist Zionist enemy. It is the one who has formed an army ready to intervene in the region and set up military bases inside Egypt and usurped Palestine to threaten the security of the region and to attempt to force the Arabs to submit to the Camp David plot. America, which used its influence in the 1940's to put pressure on UN members to support Zionist injustice against Arab right, is the same America which today is based inside the United Nations and the Security Council for the Zionist enemy.

The Security Council has recently condemned Zionist settlement in the occupied Arab land. But the present American administration--the Carter administration--has adopted an attitude which contradicts the will of the international community and supports the Zionist settlement policy in the occupied Arab land. This is exactly the same attitude the United States showed in relation to the UN resolution that holds Zionism to be a racist movement and it is exactly the same position the United States has taken on all UN resolutions supporting Arab rights and the right of the Palestinian Arab people to its homeland.

This latest manifestation of the colonialist attitude of Carter's administration--an attitude which openly supports Zionist settlement in the occupied Arab land--has finally exposed U.S. colonialist hostility to the Arab nation completely. It has also exposed the reality of the Zionist hold on the American administration--a hold that has met with no opposition from successive American administrations whose officials are only concerned with remaining in power and in the White House, even if the road to the White House is paved with the bodies of people, the ruins of their homelands and the splinters of their rights.

The Arab masses are not begging the United States to end its bias in favor of the Zionist enemy. The Arab masses, who have the power and the right, are confident that the United States will very much regret the day when it will find itself without interests and pawns in the region. The popular revolution is definitely coming in the Arab region and the Arab popular masses--led by the force of the new revolution and with their feet firmly entrenched--look forward to the coming popular Arab revolution. They know very well how to force the United States to submit to the Arab will and know very well, and strongly believe, that the only way to liberate the Arab land is through force--force with which the Arab nation is sufficiently endowed to enable it to extract its right and recover all of its usurped land.

TUNISIA

TUNISIA, BURUNDI ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

LD061255 Tunis L'ACTION in French 2 Mar 80 p 6 LD

[Unattributed report: "Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between Tunisia and Burundi"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry reports: "The governments of the Tunisian Republic and the Republic of Burundi have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassador level, with effect from 1 March 1980."

BOURGUIBA RECEIVES ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS ON 28 FEB

LD061545 [Editorial Report LD] Tunis L'ACTION in French 29 February publishes on page 4 an unattributed 800-word report on audiences granted by President Habib Bourguiba on 28 February to some foreign ministers attending the Arab League Conference in Tunis. President Bourguiba received in succession Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta and Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi. The audiences took place in the presence of Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri.

DPRK PARTY DELEGATION BEGINS TALKS IN TUNIS

LD061013 Tunis L'ACTION in French 29 Feb 80 p 6 LD

[Unattributed report: "North Korean Workers Party Delegation Received by Mr Sayah and Dr Moqaddem"]

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Mr Mohamed Sayah, minister-delegate attached to the prime minister and party director, received at Party House a Korean Workers Party [KWP] delegation led by DPRK KWP Central Committee Secretary Kim Hwan which arrived in Tunis on Wednesday at the Destourian Socialist Party's invitation.

After welcoming the North Korean delegation the party director gave an account of the struggle waged by President Habib Bourguiba to enable Tunisia to regain its sovereignty and independence.

Furthermore, Mr Sayah recalled the victories achieved by the Tunisian people as a result of their unity around their leader and their national cohesion.

"Our party will continue unflaggingly to strive to insure the country's development and prosperity for all its citizens," he added.

Referring to Tunisia's foreign policy, Mr Sayah emphasized that it is based on respect for national sovereignty and the principle of noninterference in other countries internal affairs. This policy remains the most effective prerequisite for safeguarding world peace and promoting international cooperation.

For his part the leader of the Korean delegation expressed satisfaction with the friendly relations existing between the two parties and paid tribute to Tunisia for progress achieved in the educational, agricultural and industrial spheres. "The aim of our visit is to consolidate our bilateral cooperation," he emphasized.

The talks took place in the presence of Deputy Party Director Abdelkader Mehiri, Moncef Siama, head of the Destourian Socialist Party Foreign Relations Department, Central Committee member Noureddine Ketari and DPRK Ambassador to Tunis Pak Chang-suk.

The delegation was also received by Dr Moqaddem, president of the National Assembly, in the assembly building.

BEGIN'S KNESSET SPEECH ON REJECTION OF UN RESOLUTION

TA061700 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1545 6 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Jerusalem, 6 Mar--The UN Security Council resolution dated 1 March, 1980 calls on us to cooperate with a committee called "The Settlements Committee." We will not respond to this call. The committee includes representatives of countries which do not have diplomatic relations with the State of Israel and do not recognize it. Its composition is a hostile one, its views prejudiced and well known in advance. It has already presented two reports, both seeped in hatred for the Jewish state. Therefore we will continue to refuse to cooperate with this committee, which was to be temporary and passing and should now terminate its existence.

We were also required to demolish houses, tear up streets, neighborhoods and public buildings in Jerusalem. The honorable members of the Security Council know that today I intend to bring up what we found in 1967, when we entered into Jerusalem, which had been occupied for 19 years by the Jordanian Legion.

We found destruction and disintegration on Mnt Scopus, fallen and broken gravestones on the Mount of Olives, demonstrating desecration worse than anything found elsewhere, totally ruined synagogues and a Jewish quarter that had been completely wiped from the face of earth.

During the last 12 years we have rehabilitated, renovated, rebuilt; yet now the demand is that we again destroy. This is an absolutely absurd demand and I would not hesitate to call it even barbaric.

Let all the members of the Security Council note that Jerusalem is one city, totally under Israeli sovereignty, our eternal capital. It will not experience any repartition, whether directly or indirectly. Free access to the holy sites of all faiths is guaranteed to all members of those faiths. It is anchored in the law. This will be the indivisible Jerusalem and there will be free access to the holy sites in it forever.

It is true that in the autonomy negotiations the proposal was brought up that the Arab residents of Jerusalem participate in the election of the administrative council connected with the autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. This proposal is totally contradictory to the Camp David accords. Not only is the demand never mentioned in the agreement, it has never been raised even as a suggestion. It has never been discussed, and that is why we will continue to reject it. Just as we want to remain faithful to the Camp David accords, we expect everyone to be loyal to it and not bring up any suggestions or demands which constitute a deviation from the agreement, or a contradiction to it.

The right of Jewish settlement [hitnahalut] in Eretz Yisra'el is an inalienable right. It is obviously linked with the security of the nation.

I raise a question publicly from this podium and present it to all the participants of the Camp David debate: In the course of all 13 days during which we held discussions, was any linkage mentioned regarding the two parts of the agreement--the one regarding the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt on implementing an autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district and stopping the settlement effort.

I declare that no such conditioning has ever been mentioned. True, we were once asked to freeze new settlements for the duration of the negotiations, but we did not accept this demand. I had clearly written to President Carter that for the duration of the negotiations up to the signing of the peace agreement between us and Egypt--adding specifically and intentionally that this referred to 3 months, as stipulated in the Camp David accords--we will refrain from establishing new settlements. This commitment was made on 17 September 1978 and expired on 17 December 1978.

Afterward there were disagreements and misunderstandings, but it did not take long before the secretary of state confirmed at a hearing before one of the Congressional committees that this indeed had been our obligation.

Thus, in accordance with what was stated in the Camp David agreements, as of 17 December, 1978, we have full rights to continue to settle in Eretz Yisra'el. In this process we have not dispossessed any Arabs.

And therefore, settlement is not only a right--as I said before--but also the decree of security and life. We will abide by this decree, because it is a matter of life and death for us.

After the U.S. representatives had voted in the Security Council, the U.S. President's statement was made public. The President kindly sent me a personal letter, the contents of which I brought to the government.

Obviously, we accept the President's words as they were written, and with all due respect, yet I must ask with all candor: Does the error regarding one line and one clause in that resolution which is hostile to Israel contradict the Camp David accords; is it the sole expression of the attitude of complete hostility toward the State of Israel and its vital interests? What about the other clauses, which also mention Jerusalem again, do they, too, contradict the Camp David accords?

Were it not for that clause, were it not for that line, would there be justification for the vote which constitutes support for that resolution, which is utter injustice? That is why I will say, with all due respect, that it is not surprising that the support of the U.S. representative of that terrible resolutin raised deep dismay among our people and our friends.

As we have already decided at the Cabinet, we totally reject this Security Council resolution. We will not accept it under any circumstances, no part or sentence or clause of it. As far as we are concerned, it is not binding and we will act according to our rights and our people's vital interest for the sake of securing the future and the well being of our people in their motherland, Eretz Yisra'el.

(Replying to a question by Ge'ula Kohen) The government of Israel will fulfill all the commitments it has undertaken and signed and will not violate them. As for your first question [which is not known] I would like to ask you; Are you not sick of bringing it up?

The Knesset has expressed confidence in the Cabinet, and the Cabinet will remain in office as long as the Parliament expresses its confidence in it. This is the great democratic rule. If the Knesset members are displeased with this, they nevertheless have to reconcile themselves with this great democratic rule, acceptable in all democratic countries. Government policies can always be criticized, but to regurgitate it, what is the point?

In Kuwait--in Kuwait of all places--and in Bahrain a statement was made on self-determination for the Palestinian Arabs, as per the joint communique [with France]. What does this term mean? Our generation is experienced in this. We are familiar with the use of nice terms that came into existence in the days of Woodrow Wilson. But we also know of cases where such terms were abused, in the 1930's. That devil, as I still remember and as my generation will recall, talked about the right of self-determination for the Germans in the Sudetenland. Many people in the West said: Actually, why not? Until that abominable Munich Pact came to be. A small people were dealt a serious blow and its independence was completely annihilated. However, not long afterward, that deed was directed at those who allowed the term of self-determination to be abused, thus doing great injustice at the expense of a small nation while trying to appease the great extortionist.

I think we are here faced with a straight analogy: certain European countries are trying to find favor with a strong, extortionist aggressor at the expense of a small country. That is why they use the term of self-determination in a totally distorted fashion. Does the great Arab people have no self-determination? It is expressed in the existence of 21 independent countries. Have we ever denied them their right of self-determination?

If anyone should weigh on the scales of justice whether the 22d Arab state should be established, a state which, according to the declaration of the leaders of the murderers' organization, will constitute a danger to the very existence of the Jewish state against the fulfillment of the Camp David accords, which mean autonomy to the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, life which...

(Replying to a question by Uri Avneri) I know what I signed, not you, Uri Avneri, who were not at Camp David. It is that the agreement was for 5 years, but this is the arrangement and its contents. And so, to choose between these two alternatives: coexisting without confrontations, without causing harm, without bloodshed. This is the question I am ready to present to any freedom and justice seeking nation.

The European peoples have another kind of experience, too. They saw our people and were witness to its fate and suffering. All of which came as a result of that very policy of appeasement. But then we were defenseless. At that time we neither had a country nor the strength to safeguard our people. That is why those in the European Continent observed the greatest of holocausts in all of history. Today the situation is different. We have an independent country and we are masters of our own fate. That is why we will reject this distortion of the term of self-determination whose implication is: a Palestinian state. Had it been established, more horrible bloodshed than in Lebanon would have occurred.

I am hereby announcing on behalf of the Cabinet, and I hope with the consent of most of the members of the Knesset, that under no circumstances will we accept a Palestinian state or allow it to be established. What we have undertaken we will abide by. No more. I am convinced that, being experienced as we are, we will be able to withstand--united, I hope--any pressure on this issue as well, and will overcome.

UN AMBASSADOR WARNED OF U.S. VOTE: 'EVRON MISLED

TA062018 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Mar 80 TA

[Text] A week before the Security Council session that resulted in the condemnation of Israel for its settlement activity Israel's UN ambassador, Prof Yehuda Blum, predicted that the United States would join the condemnation resolution.

Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram has learned that Professor Blum had warned the Foreign Ministry and the prime minister that this would happen. On the other hand, political sources disclosed, the administration had misled Ambassador Efrayim 'Evron. In briefings to U.S. Jewish leaders, 'Evron said that he had been promised that the United States would not lend its hand to a resolution condemning Israel.

CORDIAL MEETING HELD BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MURTADA, BEGIN

TA061633 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 6 Mar 80 TA

[Text] There were exchanges of views in an optimistic atmosphere today during the first official meeting between the prime minister and Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Sa'd Murtada. The two refrained from discussing and arguing any disputed issues. Murtada also met with Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Shamir, telling him that there is apprehension in Egypt in regard to the autonomy talks. Here is a report by our political correspondent Yosi 'Abadi. [Begin recording]

['Abadi] As befits the first official meeting, the prime minister and the Egyptian ambassador maintained a good atmosphere. They exchanged views on general topics, discussed the situation in the region, the autonomy talks, normalization of the [bilateral] relations and Murtada's impressions of Israel. The ambassador summed up the meeting in noncommittal words:

[Murtada--in English] I had a very, very interesting and warm reception from the prime minister, and I think that's all I can say about it. We talked about relations between the two countries since the visit of President as-Sadat to Jerusalem.

['Abadi] The differences of opinion did not emerge in the meeting: either the settlement issue or the Security Council resolution on this matter or the autonomy problems.

Murtada spoke about his impressions from the hearty welcome he received in Israel, and Mr Begin told him that his door is open to him on every subject.

Later, the Egyptian ambassador met with Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Shamir. Here Sa'd Murtada was more explicit, saying that there is apprehension in Egypt regarding the process of the autonomy talks. The success of the talks would enable As-Sadat to strengthen his position in the Arab world, the ambassador said, and that is why Egypt attributes great significance to making progress in the talks.

Murgada expressed interest in when Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Shamir will be appointed foreign minister. Rumors to that effect have been in the air for a long time, he said, but Shamir replied as he always does; I do not know. [end recording]

BURG FORESEES EARLY ELECTION DUE TO 'CRISIS'

TA062016 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Dr Yosef Burg said this evening that one should prepare for early elections to the Knesset due to the crisis in the country. The crisis, Burg added, is both political, economic and inter-governmental, and might lead to new elections. Dr Burg was speaking at the meeting of the NRP's Lamifneh faction.

Our party affairs correspondent, Nisim Mish'al, reports that Dr Burg called for a period of reconciliation in the NRP and has urged an end to internal squabbles. His faction has decided to again demand internal elections for the party branches.

PERES ON U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS, NEED FOR ELECTIONS

TA061250 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 6 Mar 80 TA

[Opposition leader Shim'on Peres interview with Allen Ben-'Ami in Knesset during the political debate--recorded]

[Text] Speaking after Begin, the leader of the opposition Labor Party Shim'on Peres agreed with the government's stand against the U.S. vote, which he said went against U.S. Middle East policy. Peres told our reporter Allen Ben-'Ami that he is also concerned about American arms supplies to the Arabs. [Begin recording]

[Peres] We aren't pleasantly surprised by the rather generous supply of the most advanced technology that America has [given Egypt] in the way of arms; by doing it, limiting an advance that Israel has had in the technological field over the permanent menace which still exists in some Arab quarters and then, obviously, the reference to Jerusalem, the reference to the existing settlements and a threat to stop aid to Israel if she will continue with the policies, which, after all, she has the right to do.

[Ben-'Ami] Your policy is, however, that you and your party oppose, in some areas, settlement. For example, you feel that settlement in the Jordan Valley--less so in the populated areas of Judaea and Samaria....

[Peres] Oh, yes. I mean, while criticizing the United States and the United Nations, we criticized as well our own government. We think that they brought, in a way, to the deterioration of the Israeli position in the world. We are surely against settling in Hebron. We are surely against settlements in the midst of densely populated Arab areas.

[Ben-'Ami] Now, what of the future? What do you think can be done regarding Israel-American relations and regarding Israel's overall image?

[Peres] We have to establish a policy. In order to establish a policy, we need a government. In order for a government, we need elections. This is the real conclusion in democratic terms of the present situation. [end recording]

Other Knesset members are also speaking in the session, which is due to end soon. Efforts to draw up a joint resolution by the Likud and Alinement to end the Knesset debate failed.

MOSHE ARENS CRITICIZES U.S. ARMS DEAL, SUPPORTS HEBRON SETTLEMENT

TA061435 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1240 GMT 6 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Qiryat Ono, 6 Mar--The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Moshe Arens, has said at a meeting with "B'nai B'rith" activists in Qiryat Ono, that if the vote on the Camp David peace accords were to be taken again, he would vote against them, since the Egyptian positions in regard to the Palestinian issue--which had not been foreseen--have been causing Israel to pay immense sums for energy. Another reason he provided for his position is the fact that the United States is supplying Egypt with large quantities of sophisticated arms.

Replying to questions, Arens criticized the tour of the Israel aircraft industries for the Egyptian defense minister. The minister was accompanied by the commander of the Egyptian intelligence corps and they had a close view of the production line of the Israeli Air Force planes. "Were I to decide on this issue, I would not approve a visit for the Egyptian entourage to that industry," he said.

Professor Arens noted that he supports the decision to produce the plane of the future, the "Lavi," by the Israel aircraft industries, but said that the issue would be closely examined in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee before a final decision is made.

Referring to the resettlement of Jews in Hebron, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee said that the Cabinet should decide on this issue positively, since Jewish Hebron was unwillingly evicted during the bloody pogroms in 1929. He also attacked the "unnatural consensus" as he called it, between Yosi Sarid, 'Ezer Weizman and Gid'on Pat, who maintain that there are only two Jewish houses in Hebron.

Arens was asked for his opinion on the defense minister's view that he, Arens, should resign. Answering this, he said that the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee has not been nor will it be "a rubber stamp" like the previous foreign affairs and security committees, and will not nod in approval of every action taken by the government without prior examination. "I am a representative of the Herut faction of the Likud, and it is the defense minister's right to bring to the faction--in which he, too, is a member--a proposal to replace me. Should the majority of the members so decide, I will take the consequences, but as long as he is not taking this course, I am not commenting on his views."

LIBERALS AGREE TO SHAMIR AS FOREIGN MINISTER, OPPOSE SETTLEMENT

TA061731 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Mar 80 TA

[Excerpt] The prime minister will be able to appoint Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Shamir foreign minister next week. The Liberal Party Executive ended its deliberations on this matter a few minutes ago with the decision to make possible the appointment of the foreign minister immediately, without raising the issue of compensation which they had demanded at the Cabinet. Here is a report by Amnon Nadav:

At the end of debate which lasted more than 2 hours, the Liberals issued a short statement: In light of the grave international situation and the Security Council resolution, the Liberal Party Executive has decided to agree to the appointment of the foreign minister at once. At the same time, it deems it a vital need to carry out the Liberal Party principles in accordance with the Likud platform.

Against Settling Jews in Hebron

TA061811 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Mar 80 TA

[Excerpt] Liberal Executive Chairman Simha Ehrlich has told our correspondent Amnon Nadav that the Liberals believe that the prime minister will abide by his promise to strengthen them in the Cabinet.

Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Shamir has told our correspondent Razi Barqay that the prime minister has not yet officially asked him to serve as foreign minister, and added that he would not discuss political issues until he assumes office.

And more from the Liberal Party [session]: A majority has consolidated against settling Jews in Hebron. Our correspondent says that if the party center convenes next week, such a decision might be passed.

The chairman of the Herut Secretariat, Yoram Aridor, has told our correspondent Amnon Nadav that the movement's position is like the Cabinet's: Aridor opposes the debate the liberals intend to hold in the party center on settling Jews in Hebron. He claims that if the Liberal ministers arrive at the Cabinet session with a position dictated by the party it would be difficult to reach compromises or decisions at the Cabinet.

LIKUD EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER LIBERALS' ATTITUDE TOWARD HURVITZ

TA070931 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Mar 80 p 1 TA

[By A Kinarti]

[Text] Both Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz' RAFI movement and the top ranks of the Herut are now concerned about the severe attacks from the Liberal Party, being made primarily by its senior personalities, against the minister's economic policy.

These attacks are being expressed in public appearances and are "personal and undermining to his status," which could cause a crisis and even his resignation.

As stated, those close to the minister fear for his status, not only in view of the criticism leveled against him and his policy by the public, but mainly by the Likud and the Liberal Party, which is bordering on "hostile criticism." "It is being heard in various Liberal Party forums and was also expressed yesterday at the party leadership meeting where there was talk against the idea of opening safes [in banks] by the finance minister.

Severe criticism of Hurvitz' economic policy is apparently expected at the meeting of the Liberal Party leadership which is convening on Tuesday 11 March and which will be devoted to the economic issue and the situation in the economy and agriculture. Among those criticizing the minister of finance are several Liberal ministers and also the former finance minister, Yehezqel Flumin, and the deputy mayor of Tel Aviv, David Shifman, and others.

Likud circles have recently warned that "Hurvitz' fall will be the Likud's fall and so his policy, which is that of the Likud government, should be helped instead of undermined."

HA'ARETZ COMMENTS ON INTERNAL CENSORSHIP IN CABINET

TA020932 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 80 p 9 TA

['Uzi Benziman commentary: "Secrets in the Cabinet Room"]

[Text] At the last Cabinet session, Minister Gid'on Pat wanted to tell his ministerial colleagues the details of the argument with the Egyptian authorities over installing communications equipment in the Israeli Embassy in Cairo. The minister of industry, tourism and commerce was in Egypt when the Cairo customs officials refused to allow the communications equipment to be installed in the embassy building without checking it, and he wanted to tell the ministers about his impressions. When Pat began to speak, 'Ezer Weizman silenced him and instructed him not to give the Cabinet any information.

Weizman was behaving as is his custom. This is not the first time he has silenced ministers or officials (including the chief of staff) who have begun to report to the Cabinet. In general the Cabinet, for some reason, accepts this strange habit. The ministers or officials obey the defense minister's orders and refrain from giving the Cabinet the information in their possession.

At last week's Cabinet session, the minister of defense retracted his order to Minister Pat after somebody at the table commented: But this was all published in a paper this morning. "Well," Weizman said, "If it has been published, then it can be discussed here." So Pat told the Cabinet about his impressions of Egypt's refusal to allow the equipment to be installed in the embassy. The information the minister of industry, tourism and commerce had was not startling. There was nothing new in it, and there were certainly no secrets.

After the session, there were some ministers who interpreted this intervention by Weizman as part of his tendency to give the Cabinet a rosy picture of the relations with Egypt. According to this explanation, the defense minister wanted to avoid giving the Cabinet information about an event casting any shadow over the friendly atmosphere (as he describes it) characterizing the relations between the two countries. When he tried to silence Pat, Weizman knew that the argument between the Israeli Embasy staff and the Egyptian customs officals had already been publicized.

This is no isolated incident. The Cabinet members do not hear reports by the defense minister exposing difficulties and indicating stumbling blocks. Weizman is always careful to remind the ministers that the State of Israel has a wonderful army and a marvelous younger generation, and it is both possible and justified to base our whole foreign policy on the IDF's power. The Cabinet does not hear about accidents in the IDF, nor do the ministers know about important problems that have arisen in the IDF or about a qualitative gap in the capabilities of various branches.

Even the decision to produce the plane of the future locally was not discussed by the Cabinet. Even in the ministerial committee for security affairs, discussion of this problem was superficial, Rather than making a basic examination of the alternatives, the committee members accepted the defense minister's decision as a fait accompli.

Let us make no mistake: Weizman is not alone in this. Ari'el Sharon, for example, also concealed details from his ministerial colleagues at this week's Cabinet session. The minister of agriculture was complaining about the fact that no funds had been allocated in the state budget for the establishment of settlements to replace those in the Yamit Strip. To illustrate his complaint, Sharon claimed that in Hevel Qatif (in the Gaza Strip) more Jewish settlements are urgently needed. The minister of agriculture told the Cabinet that no less than 5 billion Israeli pounds would be needed this year to establish the new settlements.

Members of NRP nuclei are living in Hevel Qatif. Because of this, Zvulun Hammer was upset by Sharon's warning that the Hevel Qatif settlements desperately need more manpower. However, Hammer is also aware of the budget's limitations, and he is interested in helping Yiga'el Hurvitz in his fight to put the economy back on its feet again. Therefore, the minister of education asked the agriculture minister if it would be possible to increase the Jewish presence in Hevel Qatif by allocating funds from building budgets which had been allocated for the expansion of other settlements beyond the Green Line.

Sharon replied emphatically that Hammer's proposal was not realistic and that there could be no other solution to the problem than the allocation of 5 billion Israeli pounds. The Cabinet members gained the impression that Sharon was trying to pull the wool over their eyes and that the information and estimates he was giving them might not be reliable; especially since Housing Minister David Levi smiled and whispered to those around him that even a tenth of the sum Sharon was demanding would be sufficient.

There are ministers who say that during Moshe Dayan's term in office in the Foreign Ministry, this phenomenon took another form. When Dayan refrained from giving the Cabinet all the information, he would say so and send the ministers to the prime minister, upon whose instructions he was acting. Another of Dayan's tactics: He would choose the timing of the report (the full one) to the Cabinet. Sometimes he opted to give the Cabinet surveys at a time when the events he was reporting were already a fait accompli that could no longer be changed by the Cabinet.

Here is another recent example of the trend toward giving the Cabinet misleading reports: Last week Ambassador Efrayim 'Evron's description of Israel's status in the United States was characterized by the ministers as "generalized and superficial." There were even ministers who felt insulted that the ambassador's comments were identical to the reports in the press. After the session, 'Evron claimed in his own defense that the scope and depth of the report had been dictated to him by the prime minister in a discussion before the Cabinet session.

The conventional explanation for the method of giving only partial reports to the Cabinet is the fear of leaks. Those people who offer this explanation know that there is not much truth in it. Issues that are really secret are not presented to the Cabinet at all, nor are they presented to the ministerial committee for security affairs. There are other frameworks, very restricted ones, where sensitive issues are dealt with. Strictly military matters are also not discussed in the Cabinet and, in any event, their publication is determined by the censor. There are one or two more areas that are dealt with by small ministerial teams--and only they know of their existence.

The secrecy that ministers (or officials appointed by the prime minister) exercise in reporting to the Cabinet is not, therefore, intended purely and simply to guard security needs or guarantee national interests. More than once the excuse of fear of leaks is one intended to keep full information from the Cabinet, in order to improve the bargaining ability of one of the ministers or to protect him against any undermining of his position.

NABULUS MAYOR ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS, REJECTION OF AUTONOMY

ID051611 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 3-9 Mar 80 pp 22, 23 LD

[Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah interview with AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI correspondent in Amman--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is new in the Israeli policy in the occupied Arab territories?

[Answer] The occupation authorities have launched a new, two-pronged policy: The first is based on settlement in cities. [paragraph continues]

A visit to Jerusalem and Hebron and a look at what is going on there is sufficient to confirm the extent of the geographic and demographic changes in these two cities. The second is the expansion of settlement building sometimes under the pretest of security and other times under the pretext of developing Arab-owned state lands. This is accompanied by confiscating more Arab lands adjacent to settlements in order to expand them and by bringing more settlers. Thus the Israeli authorities are confiscating Arab lands, seizing Arab farms and adopting methods of collective punishment.

[Question] Why have you so far refused to meet with U.S. envoys who have visited the area?

[Answer] The Americans lack credibility both with their own people and with others. If the United States was indeed earnest and sincere about the achievement of a just peace it would have recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian problem as the core and basis of every solution.

I must say here that all the nationalist personalities and forces in the occupied territories have refused and continue to refuse any form of dialog with the parties to Camp David.

[Question] What is the reason postponing the municipal elections in the West Bank which were scheduled to take place in April?

[Answer] The occupation authorities have given flimsy excuses to justify postponing the elections, saying that it is due to the approaching date of the autonomy elections.

In fact the occupation authorities realize that the municipal elections will not be in their interest or the interest of the parties to the Camp David agreements. This is because our people, who have been courageously resisting the autonomy conspiracy, are intent on rectifying the situation in certain municipal establishments in the occupied territories in which the attitudes of some municipal personalities are either vague or evasive.

[Question] What is the present attitude of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza toward autonomy?

[Answer] Our people reject occupation and firmly refuse to abandon their nationalist leadership despite all the hardships they are suffering and the coercive and repressive measures to which they are being subjected. We derive our strength and stands from our people's strength, steadfastness and rejection of all the conspiratorial plans.

[Question] How do you visualize the situation in the occupied territories after the autnomy negotiations are completed in May as scheduled?

[Answer] There is no such thing as autonomy. Who has granted the occupation authorities, the United States and Egypt trusteeship of our people's right to self-determination? The autonomy conspiracy which emanated from the Camp David agreements, which were primarily concluded in order to serve the objectives of the parties hostile to the peoples of the area and their interests, will only be rejected and resisted by us and our people. They will find nobody among the inhabitants of the occupied territories to side with this conspiracy, which imposes new sacrifices on us. We hope to overcome this conspiracy with the support of our brothers.

AFGHANISTAN

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ISSUES MILITARY CALLUP DECREE

LD062240 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 6 Mar 80 LD

[Text] A decree of the presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] has been issued on the callup of those liable for military service in the spring of 1980. The presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council has decided:

1. Those subjects who will be 21 years old by 21 March 1980 and will have no deferment rights and those persons called up who are over 21 and whose deferment period has expired should be called up for military service in the armed forces, the police and the work forces.

2. The central government and local authorities, for the purpose of giving the command in defense of the objective of the April Revolution, should regard all affairs and decisions concerning the callup of [word indistinct] to military service as their most fundamental duty.

3. On the order of the minister of defense of the DRA, the conscription certificates issued to those who have completed their military service will be valid for a period equal to the military service of those called up in the current draft.

The call up of the military personnel and their presentation with their certificates should be arranged within the various units. Conscription certificates for individual soldiers can only (?be granted) after the arrival of new draftees. Those individuals who have proved themselves in battle can volunteer in the ranks of the armed forces as noncommissioned officers or can be employed in the army's training institutions. Special attention should be drawn to completing the formation of the battle forces, border units, police units, which are to be formed in the first round, and also to completing the formation of the army training institutions.

4. The minister of the interior and the governors should take the necessary decisions about certifying the draftees and provide the conditions for the regular activities of the call up commissions. So that this order can be implemented the callup commissions should be made up of administrating personnel from local government organs and party activists. The entrusted centers should oversee the sending of the draftees and, when necessary, callup commissions should be sent to areas remote from the provincial centers.

The governors should take appropriate decisions in particular in the calling up of those draftees from the armed forces, police and work forces who have on their own accord and defying common sense left their units or have tried to avoid being called up for military service.

Draft callup commissions, in all areas, should begin their activities from 15 March. Those subjects whose enrollment is complete should be called up first.

5. The minister of the interior and the minister of public works should proceed in granting and arranging conscription certificates and in exempting new draftees in accordance with Article 3 of this decree.

6. The minister of communications, for the purpose of calling up draftees to military service, without paying attention as to whose turn it may be should put at the disposal of the relevant authorities all communications channels to explain particular [word indistinct] of the year beginning 2 March 1980.

7. The minister of transport is to provide for the timely transportation of the draftees in accordance with the request of the responsible directors in the provinces.

8. The minister of public health, for the purpose of speeding up the activities of the callup commissions, should allocate the required physicians in accordance with the request of the ministry of defense.

9. Control of the progress of this decree is entrusted to General 'Abdol Qader, member of the presidium of the Revolutionary Council, member of the Central Committee and general director of the central committee's defense and judicial office, with the participation of the relevant ministers.

AFP: GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS INDIAN EFFORTS TO DEFUSE TENSION

BK061505 Hong Kong AFP in English 1446 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Kabul, 6 Mar (AFP)--The Soviet-backed Babrak Karmal government has assured India its full support for its continuing efforts to defuse the tension caused by the massive Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, it was learned here today.

The assurance was given to Indian ambassador J.S. Teja, one of the few non-communist diplomats who have been able to meet President Karmal and Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost during the last few days. Mr Teja is flying home today for consultations with his government.

Faced with mounting popular outbursts against the Russian troops the Karmal Government is making an all-out effort through the mass media and by personal contacts to win over the rebelling Moslem clergy and small farmers and traders.

Members of the 57-member Revolutionary Council have fanned out to the provinces to try and convince the people that the Soviets were the only friends of Afghans, their military presence was caused by the attacks on the Afghan people by the agents of Pakistan and U.S. imperialism and they would leave the country once peace was restored.

At the same time, informed sources said, Mr Karmal was moving cautiously and steadily towards consolidating his power over the Revolutionary Council and the ruling Khalq party. The sources said the Karmal Government was determined not to let a Vietnam-type situation be created in Afghanistan and Soviet troops would be asked to remain until the last signs of insurgency are wiped out, even if it takes years.

The sources discounted rumours that Mr. Karmal was facing serious opposition within the government and the Revolutionary Council from some elements of the Parcham faction said to be still active. On the other hand, the sources said, there were indications that Mr. Karmal had strengthened his position considerably during the past few weeks and seemed to be very much in command.

From a global perspective, the Karmal government has ruled out the possibility of a neutral status for his country like that of Switzerland or Austria. But it is keen to maintain its non-aligned status and any move by leaders of the non-aligned movement to defuse the crisis and lessen tension would be given serious consideration by the Karmal regime, according to the sources.

PDPA OFFICIAL REVIEWS SITUATION IN COUNTRY

ID061910 Addis Ababa in English to Neighbouring Countries 1540 GMT 6 Mar 80 ID/EA

[Text] Good evening and welcome to "Spotlight on the Developing World." Comrade (Muhammad Rahim Rafat), member of the international department of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, who was here in Addis Ababa to attend the regular bureau session of the WPC. The following is an interview with him on the current situation in Afghanistan: [begin recording]

[Question] Could you give us an idea, Comrade (Rafat), of the situation in Afghanistan today? That is a general question, but from the point of view of the security situation in your country today?

[Answer] The security situation in my country is getting gradually to normalcy. That means that with the exception of armed banditry and predatory kind of operations, (?which is) waged by the counterrevolution in complicity with world imperialism, American imperialism at the head, and in complicity with the Chinese expansionist and hegemonists and reaction in the region, and Arab reaction, the whole situation in the country is under full control of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. (?These bandit formations) that cross the border--and they have their own kind of bases and camps beyond our border, on Pakistani soil mostly, in populated areas adjacent to Afghan territory--they cross the border and embark on predatory actions and burn bridges, [words indistinct], kill children, put ablaze villages and kill innocent people and rob them. Too, the fact is that they are actually assisted financially, materially and militarily by the world imperialism, and they are equipped with American and Chinese weapons and they resort to kind of banditry activities inside the country. But by and large the situation is normal and there is no complaint about it.

[Question] The aim of these organizations or these groups that you speak of, the bandit activities in your country, what is the aim of these organizations? Their political aim in the country?

[Answer] Actually, these bandit formations, they lack a kind of definite political objective. They are only tools and instruments used and manipulated in hands of world imperialism, and perhaps you know well that what are the objectives of world imperialism and all corrupt forces in our globe vis-a-vis a kind of mass revolution and a national democratic antifeudalistic, anti-imperialistic revolution. But, among them there are certain elements that are trained in military camps, but [words indistinct] those who have just lost their privileges. They are mostly feudal barons and lords, who have escaped the country, who fled and gone and on refuge to Pakistani soil. And there are other people, who are misguided and deceived by the propaganda machinery of the counter-revolution and also world imperialism. So then they actually resort to that kind of activities, which we are trying our most to put them again into the, I should say, real world and real kind of, realistic kind of assessment on the situation in Afghanistan. So, most of them, thousands of them have just returned back to their own country, and others, who are deeply deceived, then they collaborate with the enemies of this, our revolution.

[Question] Comrade (Muhammad Rahim Rafat) of Afghanistan: Western propaganda, in attempting to discredit the Afghanistan revolution, claimed the Afghanistan movement was anti-Islam. Comrade (Rafat), explain how wrong this.

[Answer] The revolutionaries in Afghanistan are not a bunch of exported people from abroad--they are the sons and daughters of the same people that live in Afghanistan. So, we can see and we can say that it is a Muslim country. The revolutionaries are not isolated among the patriotic Muslims. (?But) the hues and cries launched by imperialistic countries is for the sole purpose of manipulating the religion against revolutionary movements in the world and it has happened, let's say, in the heroic Ethiopia itself. They have instigated a bunch--a group--of people of conduct a kind of counterrevolutionary activities by the name or in the name of a certain region or a certain religion. You know? So it is not something very special and very peculiar for the Afghan's case to solve where ever imperialism is acting.

[Question] How would you describe the unity within the progressive forces in Afghanistan today?

[Answer] One of the miseries--I should say catastrophic kind of miseries--that from the very inception of the revolution our revolutionaries actually tasted as the very bitter experiment or experience in our country was the kind of split and disunity that the previous leadership led by Hafizollah Amin wanted to create and to keep inside the party leadership and the government leadership. So (?it was) actually one of the factors that actually led the people of Afghanistan and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan to rise against was to eliminate the disunity and split in the revolution--in the ranks of the revolutionaries. Today the unification of the party is well completed and that is why it is called now the united People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and it actually gives no room for maneuver by imperialistic agents.

[Question] Many observers of Afghanistan and Ethiopia have been impressed by the similarities between the two countries in many ways. And also, for example, both countries have had a monarchy for roughly 40 [as heard] before it was overthrown. And currently when we consider the path that the two countries are taking in the international field--what kind of relationship are you developing now with Ethiopia?

[Answer] Yes, there are many, many common grounds and many similarities, not from the sociological point of view and not only from the scientific outlook of the world, but from the strategies and tactics that were used against the heroic Ethiopian and Afghan peoples. A lot of similarities exist. Now, let us say I would draw a kind of parallel. As you said, both countries have similarities. Some 2 years back and 6 years before your people rose for a definite kind of resurrection against the monarchism, and then you had your rightful revolution, and then you had the same situation that we have now. You were actually invaded. Your country and independence were undermined by the plots hatched by imperialism, and you fought a decisive battle in the Ogaden desert and you defeated a decisive enemy that the uproar of which travelled over the continent. So, if yesterday imperialism incited the blood-thirsty regime of Mogadishu against the Ethiopian revolution, today they are inciting Pakistan to create trouble on the revolution of Afghanistan. It is a just struggle and it should supported by all the peoples of the world. [end recording]

ISLAMIC DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO REDUCE STAFF IN KABUL

BK0611143 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Kabul, 6 Mar (AFP)--Islamic diplomatic missions might follow the example of Pakistan and drastically reduce their staff in Kabul in the coming days, it was learned here today.

Families of the diplomats from Saudi Arabia, Iran and Indonesia have already been sent home a week ago in the wake of the violent anti-Russian riots, according to informed sources.

The Indonesian Embassy has reduced the strength of its mission to less than half by sending home the staff of their families in batches during the last 2 weeks.

Pakistan pulled out most of its diplomats and staff from Kabul on Monday as a protest against the ceaseless denuciation of the Pakistani Government in the Afghan media following the capture of 16 alleged Pakistani saboteurs at the height of the anti-Russian riots last month. The Pakistani diplomats and their families have been under surveillance by the Afghan police following the riots. The Pakistanis have left behind their charge d'affaires, Abul Wahab, one first secretary and three members of the clerical staff to look after the mission.

They left on a convoy of 28 vehicles for the Pakistan border escorted by armoured personnel carriers or the Afghan Army. The vehicles, which included several trucks, were seen loading records, furniture and other effects on Sunday in front of the Pakistani Embassy situated in the busy Chicken Street shopping center of the capital.

One Pakistani source said the Afghan authorities appeared to be quite cooperative when told of the Pakistani desire to leave and provided the army escorts without any hassle. Diplomatic sources here said Pakistan was actually considering a severance of diplomatic relations with Kabul but gave up the idea as it would entail a closure of the borders as well as Afghanistan's trade route to the Arabian Sea.

3 MAR SITUATION IN KABUL QUIET, NORMAL

BK0611155 Hong Kong AFP in English 1139 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[By Govindan Unny]

[Text] Kabul, 6 Mar (AFP)--Russian families were seen in the shopping centers of the Afghan capital on Monday [3 March] for the first time after the bloody anti-Soviet riots of Feb. 22.

Kabul has been quiet and life appeared normal. There has been no relaxation, however, in the 8-hour night curfew and the large-scale round-the-clock patrolling of the streets by Soviet and Afghan troops.

Russian soldiers confined themselves to their light tanks and armoured personnel carriers as usual till curfew time. According to some Afghan sources, Russian soldiers are using their Afghan comrades during the curfew hours to obtain liquor for them, if necessary by force, from hotels and restaurants.

For the fourth day running long convoys of Russian tanks and armoured personnel carriers (APC) could be seen at sunset on Monday moving out of Kabul amid reports of mounting rebel activity in the provinces. Western sources said the Muslim insurgents were becoming more daring in their attacks against Russian troops in the area of Qandahar, Herat and Jalalabad. There were reports of heavy casualties on the Russian side but no reliable estimate was available.

Kabul airport was closed to traffic for 3 days beginning Monday due to snow and poor visibility. Snowing was the heaviest on Monday in about 2 weeks.

The airport immigration continued to bar entry into Kabul of all journalists except those from friendly countries. Even those arriving with valid entry visas were being taken by police escorts directly to their hotels, held incommunicado there and put on the next available flight out.

A few representing the Western and Japanese media are still here. As an extension of their stay is unlikely to be granted by the authorities they are waiting for the expiry of their visas in the coming days to catch their flights.

Meanwhile, they are being allowed to move in and out of the hotel with or without a police escort depending on the mood of the militia guard posted at the hotel. The newsmen are also looking out for signs of the elusive second round of anti-Russian riots for which various dates are mentioned--March 5, 7, 10, 15 and 20.

Jerusalem Report

TA061421 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Artillery fire could once again be heard in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. The exchanges continued for about 3 hours. Tourists arriving from Kabul have reported that the atmosphere there is most tense and that many of the town's residents found pamphlets under their doors calling for participation in a demonstration against the Soviet involvement tomorrow. About 300 people were killed in similar demonstrations held in Kabul 2 weeks ago.

RESISTANCE LEADER ON SITUATION IN KONARHA PROVINCE

OW061828 Hong Kong AFP in English 1824 GMT 6 Mar 80 OW

[By Jean-Francois Le Mounier]

[Text] Islamabad, March 6 (AFP)--The insurgent stronghold of Konarha is not yet lost and Soviet troops have suffered heavy casualties to gain control of only half the province, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar of the Afghan resistance group Hezb-e Eslami said today.

Speaking at a press conference here, the 33-year-old engineer said fighting continued in this 200-kilometre (120-mile) valley along the Pakistani border, and that the Russians had not managed to get past Asmar, half way up the valley. He put Soviet causalties at 1,400 men.

The insurgent leader said the offensive launched last Friday was the strongest Soviet onslaught since the invasion late December and put rebel casualties at "several hundred."

He also confirmed Konarha had been heavily shelled and reports that the Russians had taken advantage of melting snows to bring in heavy equipment, including tanks. Echoing other Moslem leaders Tuesday, Mr Hikmatyar said a long trail of refugees had left the province for Pakistan.

Mr. Hikmatyar estimated 3,500 Soviet troops had died in Afghanistan since the rebellion started 20 months ago, with 110,000 Afghans dead, among rebels, civilians and government forces. He added that some 120,000 had been arrested at one time or another and many executed.

The Hezbi-e Eslami leader, considered by observers a crucial figure in the Afghan rebellion, explained to newsmen why his group had decided not to join five other groups who two days ago announced the formation of an "Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan".

He confirmed reports the Hezb-e Eslami had not been offered sufficient power in the alliance, considering some "60 per cent" of the "600,000 refugees in Pakistan and Iran" are Hezb-e Eslami sympathisers. He explained it was his group that persuaded an entire Afghan division to defect tothe rebels at Asmar and that two brigades, two battalions and several garrisons had joined the Hezb-e Eslami.

However, Mr. Hikmatyar was careful to point out, as did the other five leaders, that staying out of the alliance in no way meant conflict among the rebel groups, as "in the field" they continued to cooperate.

The inusrgent leader criticised reports that the Russians were preparing to withdraw from Afghanistan but said that despite "all the military might of this superpower" they would "one day" be forced to leave, as the "mojahedin and the people of Afghanistan will not lay down their arms".

Along with his five colleagues, Mr. Hikmatyar rejected "any attempts by the big powers to settle the Afghan problem without the participation of the Afghan people."

"Nobody has helped us, therefore nobody will have a say in our fight for a pure and free Islamic Afghanistan", he concluded.

'Heavy Losses' Reported

TA070652 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 7 Mar 80 TA

[From "News Desk"]

[Text] According to the leader of one of Afghanistan's largest rebel groups, the Islamic Front, the struggle for control of Konarha Province, near the Pakistan border, is still going on. He told a news conference in Islamabad that both the Soviet-led forces and the rebels had suffered heavy losses. Over the past few days, reports from other rebel sources said that the rebels had been virtually destroyed and hundreds of civilians killed.

BANGLADESH

FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES CHARGES OF FOREIGN NAVAL BASE

BK061615 Hong Kong AFP in English 1552 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Dacca, 6 Mar (AFP)--Foreign Minister Prof. Shamsul Haq today denied allegations that the government had allowed a foreign country to set up naval base in off-shore Bangladesh island of "St. Martins" in the Bay of Bengal, the minister was replying to questions in Parliament today.

Last month opposition political leader and former commander in chief of Bangladesh Armed Forces retired General Mohammad Ataul Ghani Osmany made a public statement asking the government not to allow any foreign power to use St. Martins, a 6 square mile coral island with about 2,000 population.

He did not specify any foreign power but said that attempts were being made by foreign powers since Pakistan days to use the small island about 225 miles southeast of Dacca near Cox's bazaar.

NEPAL'S KING BIRENDRA ARRIVES ON STATE VISIT

BK040923 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 4 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpts] King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Lakshmy Devi Shah arrived in Dacca this morning to a warm and ceremonial welcome. President and Begum Ziaur Rahman received the royal guests as they alighted from the special plane. A 21-gun salute heralded the arrival of the distinguished guests from Rangoon.

King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Lakshmy Devi Shah called on the President and Begun Ziaur Rahman at Banga Bhavan this afternoon. The Nepalese king will go to the national memorial of martyrs at Savar in a short while from now. Formal talks between Bangladesh and Nepal will begin this evening. This will be followed by a banquet to be given in honor of the royal guests by President and Begum Ziaur Rahman at Banga Bhavan tonight.

Banquet Address

BK050658 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 5 Mar 80 BK

[Text] King Birendra of Nepal has said fostering good relations with Bangladesh is an important objective of Nepal's foreign policy. He was speaking at a banquet hosted by President and Begum Ziaur Rahman in honor of the Nepalese king and queen at Banga Bhavan in Dacca last night. King Birendra said a number of agreements in various fields have contributed to close cooperation and understanding between Nepal and Bangladesh. We appreciate the cooperation rendered by Bangladesh in the technical areas and the development of Nepal's transit trade, he added.

The king said the support of Bangladesh to declare Nepal a zone of peace has added an important milestone in relations between the two countries. It is a sense of belonging to the [words indistinct] of region of the world that brings the two countries closer to each other. In our desire to give meaning to this feeling, we look forward to exert greater cooperation efforts in the development of our important natural resources, he added.

King Birendra said close and periodic exchange between Nepal and Bangladesh has not only helped to identify new areas of cooperation but also to understand the outlook of each other better on regional and world problems. He said the present international situation calls for the attention of all to the need for maintaining peace in this region. As members of the United Nations and the nonalined movement both Nepal and Bangladesh have strictly adhered to the cardinal principles. He said these principles imply total respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states, non-use of force in international relations and non-interference in the internal affairs of another state. The king of Nepal called for scrupulous application and practice of these principles because of threat to peace in the vicinity of this region.

King Birendra said Nepal and Bangladesh are bound not only by the closeness of geography but also by historical and cultural ties. Nepal looks with deep satisfaction to the progress Bangladesh has made in all respects of socio-economic life under the dynamic leadership of President Ziaur Rahman.

Earlier, in his short speech President Zia expressed satisfaction at the growing relations between Bangladesh and Nepal in a wide range of fields. He hoped the present visit by the king will result in further widening and deepening these relations.

The president said Bangladesh and Nepal have very deeprooted bonds of friendship and cooperation based on shared history and values. The two countries are committed to the ideas of peace, freedom and justice as embodied in the UN Charter and also in the principles of the nonalined movement.

Nepal Foreign Minister News Conference

BK061005 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Nepal has expressed its willingness to participate in regional cooperation enhancing the water resources. This was stated by Nepalese Foreign Minister K.B. Shahi at a crowded news conference at Banga Bhavan this morning. He said natural resources like water should be shared by the countries of the region for the benefit of their people.

The Nepalese foreign minister said the dialog for sharing waters by the countries concerned should be continued until a mutually acceptable solution is found. He said the visit of King Birendra to Bangladesh and other neighboring countries is part of Nepal's continuing efforts to foster better understanding among nations of the region.

On the Afghan situation, K.B. Shahi said: We share the views of Bangladesh on the issue. He also called for immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

Asked to comment on the situation in Iran, he said his country believed that the hostages held by the militant students should be released. At the same time, he said, an international commission should inquire into the alleged misdeeds of the former shah.

The Nepalese foreign minister said the warm and cordial reception extended to the king and queen reflects the true bonds of friendship that bind the two countries together. He said King Birendra and President Zia had exclusive talks on regional and international issues with special emphasis on bilateral matters. The economic and technical cooperation between the two countries also figured prominently during the talks. Simultaneously, the delegations of the two countries held talks on bilateral cooperation. Their meetings will continue, he added.

6 March Departure

BK060927 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpt] King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Lakhsmi Devi Shah of Nepal were given a hearty and ceremonial send-off when they left Dacca this morning for New Delhi at the end of a 3-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh. The President and Begum Ziaur Rahman were at the airport to see off the royal guests. A 21-gun salute marked the departure of the distinguished visitors.

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY CLOSED FOLLOWING DISTURBANCES

BK050452 Hong Kong AFP in English 0420 GMT 5 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Dacca, 5 Mar (AFP)--The authorities have closed down the Rajshahi University in western Bangladesh till March 22 next [word indistinct] in view of prevailing situation on the campus.

The decision was taken late Monday night by the university sindicate but no indication [words indistinct] as to the nature of the situation prevailing.

A 4-day national science conference whose inauguration last Sunday at the campus was marred by students' demonstrations was also declared abandoned today.

Earlier press reports said Vice-President Justice Abdus Satter who was to inaugurate the conference at campus was not allowed entry into the venue by demonstrating students who demanded removal of the vice-chancellor.

Another university in Mymensingh in northern Bangladesh was closed early last month following violent clashes between two groups of students, leaving three students [words indistinct] wounded.

INDIA

GANDHI RATIONALIZES SOVIET AFGHAN MOVE, SEES WESTERN OVERREACTION

LD061141 Paris LE MATIN in French 3 Mar 80 p 12 LD

[Jean Leclerc du Sablon interview with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi: "Nonalined Helpless in Face of Afghan Crisis"--date, place not given]

[Text] LE MATIN: You have recently received many foreign emissaries, especially representatives of the nonalined countries. Do you believe that nonalined countries are more able than others to reduce world tension? Do you envisage a conference of the movement?

Indira Gandhi: Nonalined countries could influence the international situation, but to do so they should be united. However, the nonalined movement has now lost the kind of solidarity which it had in the past. The two superpowers have been trying to secure positions for themselves in this sphere: The two blocs want to exert influence there by looking after their own interests, and so nothing can be achieved. A special conference on Afghanistan? This would make sense only if we could expect results from it. Otherwise it would be a mere waste of time. This is why the nonalined countries are not now preparing any concrete proposal.

LE MATIN: Can the crisis be resolved with the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan?

Indira Ghandi: The international situation is very complex. Western countries are inclined to think that the problem is mainly a result of the entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan. It cannot be said that the West has contributed to any reduction in tension. It has boosted its military effort spectacularly. In particular, this applies to U.S. action in the Indian Ocean. Now we want no foreign influence in this region. It is necessary to consider what led to the entry of Soviet forces into Kabul, without either excusing or whitewashing it. Just like any other country, the USSR cannot remain passive once it comes to the conclusion that its national interests are at stake. Look at the policy pursued by the United States in its own sphere, in Latin America. Afghanistan is situated smack on the Soviet border. And the rebels were armed by Pakistan. What alternative did the Soviets have? As early as August 1979 Amin (the communist dictator overthrown by the pro-Soviet Babrak Karmal regime 27 December) asked them to intervene. If the Soviets withdrew the Kabul government could well be overthrown by a regime hostile to them.

LE MATIN: Did Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko ask you for Indian support during his recent visit to New Delhi?

Indira Gandhi: No.

LE MATIN: But did this Indian-Soviet meeting end in failure?

Indira Gandhi: It did not seek to achieve any result. Both sides stated their views and that was all. However, Gromyko did not seem to be pleased with the intervention. It looks as if they were forced to intervene.

LE MATIN: You seem more severe with respect to the West than with respect to Moscow--as if you were obsessed.

Indira Gandhi: Western governments are overreacting. Probably because of the influence exerted by big business-the arms, shipbuilding and steel industries. Look at the Americans, for instance. They have not just reacted against the Soviet Union, they have taken advantage of it to adopt measures out of all proportion. It must be realized that the rapprochement between China and the United States directed against the USSR, which feels itself encircled, is one of the reasons for the present crisis.

LE MATIN: But can one really talk of a Beijing-Washington "axis"?

Indira Gandhi: No, but of a very close anti-Soviet entente among China, the United States and Pakistan. The Americans want to aid Pakistan, but that is senseless, and could indeed produce the opposite effect. Look what happened in Iran: The shah's downfall. They are completely unaware of the situation in Pakistan, where rebellion is progressing and political unrest is increasing in Sind Province (the region of former President Ali Bhutto, executed by General Zia). There again, the West, which was so critical of my declaration of a state of emergency (in 1975), finds no embarrassment in aiding the Pakistani military dictatorship. We do not want to form an anticommunist community with Pakistan but we do want improved relations with it. It is very dangerous and, indeed, not to India's interest to have weak neighbors, threatened with dismemberment.

LE MATIN: And why have you forgotten China in your series of contacts with foreign countries?

Indira Gandhi: We have not forgotten it. It is true that at this moment everyone seems friendly toward us. The Chinese have made appeasing gestures concerning their ally Pakistan, and on an improvement in our relations. They are making soft noises of friendship. But we must wait and see what they are really up to. After all, even though we supported Beijing at the United Nations, they have been hostile toward us in the past; they still claim some Indian territory and they have increased the number of their advisers and experts in Nepal.

LE MATIN: Do you expect a visit from China's foreign minister, Huang Hua?

Indira Gandhi: That is a question of schedule. But if he wants to come he is always welcome....

LE MATIN: What is your view of the European Community's proposals for the neutralization of Afghanistan, and of Brezhnev's suggestion of international guarantees in response to a withdrawal?

Indira Gahdhi: We have not finished examining Brezhnev's proposals. As for the idea of international control in Afghanistan, I do not see how that could be achieved. In India, we still have unhappy memories of the UN control of Kashmir after independence in 1947 and the Pakistan conflict.

LE MATIN: If even a power such as India cannot intervene to find a solution to the Afghan crisis, is there not a danger of imminent war?

Indira Gandhi: We must proceed with realism and patience. The tension has, moreover, diminished a little. The American leaders seem less nervous. And India, like other countries, such as France, has had a moderating influence.

GONSALVES ON OUTCOME OF VISIT TO U.S., CANADA, EUROPE

BK061629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Eric Gonsalves, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has said that India has been able to create a better understanding of her position in the Western countries following the recent discussions on the developments in Afghanistan. Describing this as encouraging, he said no clearcut formula has, however, so far emerged for defusing the tension in the region. Gonsalves was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today after a weeklong visit to Washington, Ottawa and London.

Gonsalves said the purpose of his visit was to find out if there was any degree of parallel attitude in these countries which may help in building up some kind of a consensus. There was not enough indication of that yet.

Gonsalves added that India has yet to continue the consultations. He was hopeful of India playing an effective role though not a major one.

Discussions on Afghanistan

BK061631 Hong Kong AFP in English 1531 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 6 Mar (AFP)--The three-nation visit of Indian Secretary of State Mr. Eric Gonsalves to find a solution of the Afghanistan crisis met with a "very limited success" and no clear plan of action could be evolved.

Mr. Gonsalves who returned here yesterday after a tour of the United States, Canada and Britain told newsmen today that he found "contradictions" in the proposals of the countries he visited. Mr. Gonsalves said "every government is asking for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, but they do not have clear cut and realistic proposal to defuse the crisis."

Mr. Gonsalves refused to admit that his visit had been a failure, but said "I do not think we can see any clear way to get out of the Afghan tangle."

During his visit to the United States, Mr. Gonsalves had talks with Mr. Clark Clifford, a top level adviser to President Carter; Mr. Warren Christopher, the deputy secretary of state; Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security adviser; and Mr. Lester Wolff who leads a congressional subcommittee on South Asia.

Mr. Gonsalves's discussions in Ottawa were limited to officials of the Canadian Foreign Ministry, as the Trudeau government was yet to be formed.

Summing up his talks, Mr. Gonsalves said that he did not see "genuine parallels" in the approach of the countries he visited and said "unless we all reach a consensus and follow it up with some kind of action. The Afghan crisis may deepen further and may get out of hand."

Mr. Gonsalves said it would be difficult for him to predict that the Afghan crisis could be solved in weeks or months, and said "we do not have all the time in the world, if we let the Afghan crisis drift, it may as well go out of hand." Mr. Gonsalves said that what was needed to defuse the crisis was some "degree of stability inside Afghanistan" and expressed satisfaction that normalcy was returning to Afghanistan.

Mr. Gonsalves explained the Indian stand and said "we do not want either of the superpowers to start a confrontation here, but then we are realistic. We feel that the Soviets will have to be persuaded to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan and it should not be imposed on them."

Mr. Gonsalves refused to admit that India can play a major role in defusing the crisis, but said "we do carry weight with Moscow" and said that New Delhi would continue its dialogue with other countries to find a solution. Mr. Gonsalves was optimistic that the March 10-11 meeting of the Group of 77 in New York would yield results. "Our foreign minister will be there and we hope that some sort of consensus will be reached to defuse the Afghan crisis."

Mr. Gonsalves said that beginning has already been made to defuse the Afghan crisis and recalled the Soviet announcement that it would withdraw its troops as soon as Pakistan stops encouraging the rebels. "We do not have any reason to doubt the Soviets," he said.

Mr. Gonsalves said the U.S. goals in Afghanistan did not require confrontation over Afghanistan itself. "Afghanistan is not the basic American goal, the Americans are not out to establish military confrontation over Afghanistan," Mr. Gonsalves said.

Mr. Gonsalves said "if a suitable way was found by which nonaligned government could be established in Kabul and the Soviet withdrawal ensured, Americans might not create difficulties."

Mr. Gonsalves was commenting on a report that U.S. National Security Affairs Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski had indicated American readiness to scale down the confrontation and make it possible for the Soviet Union to begin disengaging their forces.

U.S. Proposal on Uranium

BK070338 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Gonsalves has said that the United States has made some suggestions as regards the supply of enriched uranium to the Tarapore powerplant. He said India is considering the proposal.

Gonsalves was talking to newsmen in Delhi after his weeklong visit to Washington, Ottawa and London where he had an exchange of views on the recent developments in Afghanistan.

RAO TO ATTEND GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN NEW YORK

BK071024 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is leaving for New York on Sunday [9 March] to participate in the meeting of the Group of 77 beginning on Tuesday. The group will discuss its strategy in negotiations with the advanced countries.

India is the chairman of the Group of 77.

NEW MINISTER FOR PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS SWORN IN

BK070802 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Virendra Patil was sworn in as a member of the union Council of Ministers at a ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] today. President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy administered the oath of office and secrecy. Vice President Hidayatullah, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and some of her cabinet colleagues were present at the ceremony.

A former Karnataka chief minister, Virendra Patil, who will have cabinet status, has been assigned the petroleum and chemicals portfolio which has been looked after by Works and Housing Minister P.C. Sethi.

Speaking to UNI [UNITED PRESS OF INDIA] after the swearing in ceremony, he said he will try to live up to the expectations of the people and the prime minister. He would seek the cooperation of the people and the press in surmounting the great challenges facing his ministry.

W. BENGAL DEMANDS ABROGATION OF TREATY WITH BANGLADESH

OW061836 Hong Kong AFP in English 1830 GMT 6 Mar 80 OW

[Text] New Delhi, March 6 (AFP)--The state government of West Bengal [capital Calcutta] bordering Bangladesh has come out with a demand for scrapping the 1977 Indo-Bangla treaty on the Ganges waters, already threatened by lately aggravated differences between the countries on future sharing of the common river waters under a permanent arrangement.

Irrigation Minister Provas Roy in the communist-dominated leftist alliance government in West Bengal told reporters in Calcutta today that they had conveyed the demand to the federal government during a federal minister's visit there recently.

Reports quoted him as saying that the river bed below the Farakka barrage on the Ganges would totally dry up unless India's share of water was immediately raised to 40,000 cusecs, from the present 20,000 cusecs during the lean period as provided for under the 1977 interim agreement.

The federal Irrigation Minister Ghani Khan Choudhury, to whom the West Bengal demand was made, has already voiced a similar proposal in public, obviously in agreement with the state.

HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

BK050947 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0831 GMT 5 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Hungarian Foreign Minister Frigyes Puja left for Bombay on March 4 en route to Zurich to end his 4-day official visit, reports PRESS TRUST OF INDIA.

During his stay in New Delhi Puja was received by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. They discussed present international issues besides regional developments and bilateral matters. He also called on President N. Sanjiva Reddy.

At official level talks Puja exchanged views on wide-ranging issues including regional developments with Minister for External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Development of Indo-Hungarian economic and commercial relations was the theme of the visiting foreign minister's discussions with Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister R. Venkataraman and Energy Minister A. Ghani Khan Chaudhuary.

JAPAN'S SONODA ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI

BK070904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Mr Sunao Sonoda, special envoy of the Japanese prime minister, arrived in New Delhi today on a 5-day visit. Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Sonoda described the relations between the two countries as extremely good. He said in the context of the changing world situation the influence of a major power like India is all the more important. There may be some differences between the two countries but, he pointed out, they have one common goal of peace and prosperity in Asia and the world.

Mr Sonoda said the purpose of his visit is to have a frank exchange of views with Indian leaders. He added it is most important for the world that India and Japan should further enhance their close friendship.

During his stay in the capital, Mr Sonoda will call on Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi and hold talks with External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

NEPAL KING, ENTOURAGE BEGIN OFFICIAL VISIT

BK060749 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Text] King Birendra of Nepal accompanied by Queen Aishwarya and Foreign Minister K.B. Shahi arrived in New Delhi a short while ago. President Sanjiva Reddy, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Minister for External Affairs Narasimha Rao welcomed the dignatories. The three service chiefs and foreign secretary R.D. Sathe were also at the airport.

Members of the Bharat-Nepal Maitri Sangh [India-Nepal Friendship Association] were at the airport in strength to welcome the royal visitors who are on a 3-day visit to the country.

Preliminary Talks

OW061754 Hong Kong AFP in English 1750 GMT 6 Mar 80 OW

[Text] New Delhi, March 6 (AFP)--Visiting King Birendra of Nepal had a preliminary exchange of views with Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Ganghi and other Indian leaders this evening on developments in the region and bilateral matters. Apart from holding a brief meeting with Mrs. Gandhi, the king called on President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and met with Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao.

The Nepalese monarch arrived here earlier this afternoon for a two-day official visit accompanied by Queen Aishwaraya in the royal party. He flew in from Dacca, Bangladesh from a similar visit there.

The formal talks are scheduled for tomorrow, at a working lunch to be hosted by Mrs. Gandhi in honour of the king. The royal couple were accorded a warm welcome at the airport on their arrival, being greeted by President Reddy, Mrs. Gandhi and her cabinet colleagues.

Banquet Speeches

BKD70359 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] India and Nepal have expressed concern at the massive induction of arms into the region which is creating tension in the area. Speaking at a banquet in honor of King Birendra of Nepal, President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy said both countries hold the view that the shadow of the cold war in the region is not conducive to peace and stability. The two also agreed that noninterference in the internal affairs of any country constitutes the essential basis for the establishment of a climate of peace and mutual trust among the countries of the area. On Indo-Nepal relations, the president in a climate of mutual trust we must now consider embarking upon programs of exploring the natural wealth for the prosperity of our peoples.

Referring to the age-old ties between the two countries, Mr Reddy said they are conditioned by permanent bonds of shared history, culture and above all mutuality of interests.

Replying, King Birendra said without peace at home and in the region no nation can concentrate fully on its economic development. It is therefore in the interest of Nepal to remain nonalined. The king said Nepal has always believed that a strong and stable India can be a bulwark strength for Nepal and similarly a strong and stable Nepal for India.

King Birendra said Nepal looks upon with admiration the contribution that India has made for the development of that country. He expressed deep appreciation for the cooperative gesture of India. The king assured that his country is prepared to take up with India bilateral as well as regional projects in the full trust that the long-term interests of both the countries can be served better and fully.

IRAN SEEKS REVIEW OF IRON ORE PROJECT

BKD70920 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Iran is reported to be seeking a review of some of the provisions of the India-Iran iron ore project at Kudremukh in Karnataka. A team of senior Iranian officials is coming to India soon for discussions in this connection.

Though the Iran Government has struck many agreements signed with other countries by the deposed shah's regime, it has affirmed its basic commitment to the Kudremukh project. It has agreed to invest over 5,000 million rupees in this project.

JAGJIVAN RAM ANNOUNCES SPLIT IN JANATA PARTY

BKD70754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Jagjivan Ram has announced that he and his followers have decided to have a split in the Janata Party. They will sit as a separate group in Parliament.

At a crowded news conference in New Delhi today, Mr Ram said he has called a meeting of his supporters on the 22d of this month to decide their future course of action. For the present his group will be called Janata-J but it will adopt a new name later. Mr Ram said all Janata members, except those belonging to the Jana Sangh, are welcome to attend the meeting.

Asked about his group's attitude toward the Congress-I, Mr Ram said it will be that of constructive opposition. He will support the government for its constructive policies and programs but they will criticize the government whenever they felt it necessary. About the Lok Dal, Mr Ram said that casteism is a bigger threat to the country than communalism. Casteism poses a threat of splitting every village in the country.

In a lengthy statement, Jagjivan Ram said relations between him and the rest of the Janata Party have reached a point of no return.

Chander Shekhar Comments

BKD70755 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Janata Party President Chander Shekhar has said that the disassociation of Jagjivan Ram will not harm the party. He told newsmen in New Delhi today that persons like Jagjivan Ram are dead wood wherever they are and their departure will not make any difference. He said that his leaving the party shows that his public utterances so far were not honest.

MARXIST COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER ON DIFFERENCES WITH CPI

BKD50418 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M] General Secretary E.M.S. Namboodiripad has said that differences between his party and the Communist Party of India on basic issues still remain to be solved. In a statement issued in Trivandrum, he expressed his party's willingness to have informal talks on the issues.

Party leader P. Ramamurthy, MP, has said that the CPI-M will have electoral adjustments for the coming assembly elections with all parties opposed to the Congress-I. Speaking to newsmen in Tiruchirapalli, he said his party will have talks with the All-India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and other parties regarding seat adjustments.

ASSAM STUDENTS DECIDE TO SUSPEND PICKETING TEMPORARILY

BKD50416 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A delegation of the All-Assam Students Union will leave Gauhati for New Delhi tomorrow for a second round of talks with the prime minister on Friday to find an acceptable solution to the foreign national issue. (Virigu Kumar Pukhan), general secretary of the union, said in Gauhati last night that the students have decided to suspend temporarily the current picketing in front of the state and central government offices from tomorrow till the 15th of this month in view of the talks with the prime minister. He said that All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad [People's Struggle Council] has approved the visit of the students delegation to Delhi.

PAKISTAN

HAQ PROPOSES INTERNATIONAL PEACE FORCE IN AFGHANISTAN

BKD61601 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has proposed the stationing of an international peace force in Afghanistan so that there is no foreign interference from any quarter in Afghanistan and so that the Afghanistan crisis can be solved peacefully.

Addressing the concluding session of the 2-day all-Pakistan local bodies convention, he said this peace force could be sent from the Islamic or nonalined world or from the United Nations and would see that there is no interference in Afghanistan from any side--West or East, North or South.

Referring to the allegations that Pakistan is giving military training to Afghan refugees and providing arms to freedom fighters, the president said Pakistan has denied this time and again. He said any international agencies could visit the Afghan refugees camps in Pakistan at any time to see for themselves whether Pakistan is giving military training to the Afghan refugees or taking care of them solely on humanitarian grounds and meeting their basic needs. He proposed that if it is believed that Pakistan is interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs and providing arms to the freedom fighters then the 1,400-mile Pakistan-Afghanistan border could be sealed off.

He said 90,000 Soviet troops are already present in Afghanistan.

The president said he is putting forward these proposals with full sincerity in the supreme interest of peace in the region as well as the world.

The president said Pakistan wants to settle this regional issue peacefully and not through the use of force. He said Pakistan desires peaceful relations with all countries, particularly with its neighbors. Pakistan has no aggressive designs on any country, and all measures taken by us are aimed at defending our national independence and security.

The president said we have brotherly and friendly relations with the Islamic countries, and we are proud of the dependable and tested friendship with China. He emphatically declared that the country has to rely on its own resources to defend itself. He said, although we lack material resources, the Pakistan people's unshakable faith in Islam and their love for freedom are invincible.

The president said the 75 million people of Pakistan will become an impregnable wall to deal with any situation. Although the country was passing through the most crucial time in its 32-year history, it will, with its united strength, emerge successfully from this crisis. Our people have demonstrated their (?limitless) capability in the past and if their security is threatened, they will overcome.

He said the Pakistani people, standing shoulder to shoulder with their armed forces, are ready to make the highest of sacrifices for national independence.

The president exhorted the people to have strong faith in their religion and live their lives according to the Islamic tenets and pursue a [word indistinct] policy.

He said during his visit to different parts of the country he witnessed an exemplary people's unity and self-confidence. He said unity was the need of the time.

He exhorted the councillors to contribute to the efforts to mold society in accordance with the Islamic tenets. They should inculcate the Islamic values among the younger generation. The president emphasized that protection of the Islamic ideology is imperative for strengthening the foundation of the country.

The president mentioned the different proposals which the councillors put forward during their speeches in the convention and said these would be given due consideration and will be implemented if it is possible to do so.

He agreed with a woman councillor that the teaching of the holy Koran be made universal at the primary school level. He said that Islamic teaching has already been made compulsory from first grade level to the [word indistinct] level.

The president urged the councillors to use their influence to mould the lives of the students in accordance with the tenets of Islam. They should guide the youth on the right path and make them true Pakistanis.

The president announced a grant of 100 million rupees from the federal government for the local bodies to finance their developmental activities. He said the local bodies will get this money to meet their immediate needs during the remainder of the current fiscal year. He assured the councillors that the state governments will also help them in meeting their fiscal needs, and in the next fiscal year the federal and state governments will provide appropriate funds for the local bodies.

The president declared that many decisions have been taken to strengthen the local bodies and to increase their capacity. These decisions include a comprehensive training program for the councillors, setting up of national development center in Islamabad, constitution of an experts committee and introduction of diploma courses on local bodies training in various universities under the sponsorship of the university grants commission. Centers for intensive studies [of local bodies] will be set up at the district council level, and research work on local bodies will be carried out in various colleges and universities. He also announced that councillors delegations will be sent to foreign countries to study local bodies systems there and apprise the people there about the Islamic democratic system being enforced in Pakistan.

The president expressed satisfaction at the deliberations of the convention and said it has achieved the objective of exchanging views on national issues and establishing a link between the administration and the elected representatives of the people.

He said the present government does not want to remain in power for a long time but, as long as it is in power, it wants to serve the people in accordance with their wishes. He gave his assurance that his basic objective is to establish an exemplary democratic system in the country and he is determined to do so. He asked the local bodies members to make every possible effort to accelerate the process of Islamization in the country at all levels.

He declared that restrictions on the press will be lifted and an agreement has been reached between the journalists representatives and the government satisfactory to both sides. A true democratic press will be launched, he said.

Referring to the economic situation, he said agriculture is the backbone of our economy and every effort is being made for its development. He gave his assurance that the prices of all agriculture produce will be increased and an announcement to this effect will be made during the sowing season.

The income earned from the increased prices for various crops will be much more than the costs borne by farmers for fertilizer, seed and the increased prices of other agricultural inputs.

He asked the councillors to take immediate steps to control waterlogging and salinity.

The president said that by the end of this year, or the beginning of next year, Sui Gas will be provided to Quetta. Steps will be taken to provide other parts of Baluchistan biogas from Pir Kot and Sui. He also gave his assurance that all provinces will be brought on par with the developed areas.

He said, on recommendation of the judiciary, the work of enforcing the Islamic-ordained punishment system has been left to the courts, but if desired results are not achieved then other alternatives will be sought.

He assured the minorities that they will be given the same rights as the majority.

HAQ ANSWERS NEWSMEN ON INTERNAL SITUATION, PRC VISIT

BK0617l0 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Talking to newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon, President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that the government is assessing the possibility of reviving the senate. He said the proposal received in this regard from political leaders is very good, and the Law Ministry and legal experts are examining it. He said he has received proposals that, since elected representatives are participating in the government at the provincial level, then it would be appropriate to revive the senate so that the people are represented at the federal level as well. It has also been proposed that the places of those who have been disqualified from senate membership could be filled through nominations from the recently elected people's representatives [in the local council election]. The president said this proposal is also very good. He said we have to see what role the senate can play in a situation in which the National Assembly does not exist.

Asked to comment on his recent meetings with the political leaders, the president disclosed the objective was to learn the people's opinion on the current domestic and international situation. He said he wants to take the people into his confidence in light of the situation facing the country.

He said the response from the political leaders was very encouraging; they have approved the government policy to deal with the situation, and there is an identity of views between the government and the political leaders in this connection. He said he is aware that the political process should be restored and for this we have to see how the genuine representatives of the people could be brought forward. Along with this, we will also have to examine the role of the advisory council in light of the Islamic tenets. He said the government is considering this matter.

Answering a question on some relaxation of the ban on political activities, the president said one proposal has been put forward on this also, but we have to see what is in the supreme national interest. He said he is of the view that the people should be given the chance to express their views freely on affairs concerning national interests and there should be no (?inhibitions).

Answering another question, he said his door is always open to meet with the political leaders. He said after the local bodies convention he will meet more political leaders.

Answering yet another question, the president said: I will visit China in April or May, and a Chinese military delegation will come to Pakistan in a few days.

SONODA, SHAHI CONCLUDE TALKS IN ISLAMABAD

OW052202 Hong Kong AFP in English 2143 GMT 5 Mar 80 OW

[Text] Islamabad, March 5 (AFP)--Japan and Pakistan agreed here today that "the essential pre-requisite" to solving the Afghan problem was "immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops" from that country. This was stated by officials after two and half hours of talks between special Japanese envoy Sunao Sonoda and Pakistani Presidential Adviser for Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi on implications of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan for the peace and stability of the region.

Mr. Sonoda, former Japanese foreign minister, pledged at the meeting 32,000 million yen (about 128 million dollars) in Japanese economic aid to Pakistan for the year starting next April 1. A quarter of the pledged amount would be in the form of grants. In addition the Japanese envoy assured that Tokyo would work with other donor countries towards removing impediments in providing debt relief to Pakistan. Japan will provide 380 million yen (about 1.5 million dollars) in relief aid for Afghan refugees in Pakistan in addition to 1,000 million yen (about 4.3 million dollars) already given for the purpose to the United Nations high commissioner for refugees.

Mr. Sonoda called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq later today to deliver a letter from Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira.

Tomorrow Mr Sonoda will visit an Afghan refugee camp near Peshawar and is scheduled to leave for India on Friday on the last leg of a seven-nation tour in the region which has so far taken him to Oman, Syria, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Haq Lauds Japanese Assistance

BK070336 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira has said development of Pakistan as a stable and independent country is of utmost importance to peace and stability in Asia. In a personal message delivered to President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq by his special envoy Sonoda, the Japanese prime minister said his country wished to extend as much cooperation as possible to further the development of Pakistan. Sonoda, while delivering a message from the Japanese prime minister, exchanged views with the president on the regional situation arising from the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Bilateral relations and other issues of common interest. Sonoda lauded the steps taken by Pakistan to develop closer cooperation with the Islamic world and the nonalined countries.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq expressed thanks for Japan's prompt decision to increase its economic assistance which manifested Japan's sincere concern for Pakistan's wellbeing at this critical time in its history.

Sonoda Concludes Visit

BK070921 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 7 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Special envoy of the Japanese Prime Minister Mr Sunao Sonoda has said Pakistan's peace and prosperity is of great importance to the whole world. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this morning prior to his departure at the end of his visit to Pakistan, he said peace and prosperity of Pakistan means the peace and prosperity of Japan, the Middle East, Asia and the whole world.

The special envoy of the Japanese prime minister said Pakistan faces a difficult situation especially after the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. He said that due to correct leadership and proper decisions the people of Pakistan are completely united in facing this difficult challenge. He said he pays highest tribute to President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq for appropriately dealing with the situation.

SRI LANKA

HAMEED LEAVES FOR NEW YORK GROUP OF 77 MEETING

BK061601 Hong Kong AFP in English 1357 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Colombo, 6 Mar (AFP)--Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed left today for New York to attend the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 scheduled to meet at the United Nations headquarters from March 11 to 14.

GOVERNMENT PROBES ANTI-IRAN POSTER CAMPAIGN

BK061611 Hong Kong in English 1350 GMT 6 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpts] Colombo, 6 Mar (AFP)--Sri Lanka Government today ordered a police inquiry to ascertain whether a poster campaign that has erupted here against the Iranian Government and Ayatollah Khomeyni was conducted from within this country or outside, it was officially announced. Several coloured posters which caricatured Ayatollah Khomeyni and cast aspersions on the Iranian Government have appeared in different parts of Colombo with slogans in Arabic, Persian and English.

The Iranian charge d'affaires here Mr. Asghar Dastmalchi today called on the Foreign Ministry and had a discussion about the poster campaign. He later told AFP: "This type of campaign cannot stop the Islamic Revolution in Iran."

A press communique issued by the Sri Lanka Foreign Ministry said it was a matter for regret that the persons of organisations involved in putting up the posters had sought to bring disrepute on a revered leader of a friendly country.

The ministry said it was obvious that the purpose in exhibiting these posters was to mar the excellent relations that prevail between Iran and Sri Lanka, "but incidents of this nature only strengthen our existing relations," it said.